

Jordan Times

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Armenians stage Moscow protest

MOSCOW (AP) — Hundreds gathered Sunday at an Armenian embassy to demand justice from the Kremlin in deciding a territorial dispute between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, and to condemn the Soviet press for being "criminally silent" about the controversy. The fight for control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region in Azerbaijan has brought ethnic tensions to the surface in both southern republics. Most Armenians are Christian, while the Azeri population of Yerevan last month was the scene of a week-long demonstration involving hundreds of thousands of Armenians, and an ethnic riot in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait killed at least 32.

Meese says he won't step aside

WASHINGTON (R) — Attorney General Edwin Meese said Sunday he would not step aside because of a probe into his role in an Iraq oil pipeline deal in which illegal payments were alleged to have been planned for the Israeli Labour Party. "Obviously I shouldn't step aside because if honest public officials can be hounded out of office by partisan political attacks, by media barages, then no public official is safe," Meese said on ABC television. Meese said it would hurt President Reagan if he stepped aside. There have been calls for him to either resign or take a leave until independent special prosecutor Robert McKay completes his probe of the pipeline proposal and the attorney general's possible involvement in efforts to win government contracts for a scandal-plagued defence contractor.

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Note to our readers

THE JORDAN Times has a slightly different look as of today, with two pages of domestic news and features, and expanded coverage of Middle East and domestic and international economic news. This is part of our effort to increase coverage of domestic news, which will be developed further in the coming weeks, including increased local commentaries and analyses, a revamped economic page with more Jordanian business and financial news, enhanced coverage of local events in the What's Going On section, and a greater flow of local feature stories.

Egypt reports tripartite coordination

DAMMAM (R) — A top Egyptian official said in remarks published Sunday that Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were coordinating their approach to Middle East peace. "There is coordination between Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians which recently reached a very high level indicating a solid Arab stance in face of Israel," Osama Al Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's top political aide, told the Saudi newspaper Al Yom. His Majesty King Hussein said in Cairo Friday after talks with Mubarak that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was expected to visit Amman soon to discuss U.S. Middle East peace proposals.

Khatib off to Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib left for Baghdad Sunday to take part in the fourth pan-Arab conference on energy due to convene in the Iraqi capital today (see page 7).

Gunmen attack Lebanese soldiers

BEIRUT (R) — Three Lebanese soldiers were wounded Sunday when unidentified gunmen fired at their barracks in apparent retaliation for the killing of two rightist militia officers, security sources said. Hours earlier, gunmen killed two officers of the Lebanese Forces militia on the Jomieh highway north of Beirut. Political sources said there was speculation that officers loyal to President Amin Gemayel carried out the killings after an argument with the victims.

Murphy briefs Andreotti on plan

ROME (R) — American Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy has briefed Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti on U.S. efforts to implement a Middle East peace plan. A Foreign Ministry statement Sunday said Andreotti spent nearly three hours Saturday with Murphy, who stopped off in Rome on his way to Washington from Moscow.

2 Arab detainees end Cyprus strike

NICOSIA (R) — Two Arab prisoners have ended a 10-day hunger strike in a Cyprus jail, official sources said Sunday. They said two others, a Briton Ian Davidson, 28, and a Palestinian from Lebanon, were still refusing food but were in good health.

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Mass resignation of Palestinian policemen, tax collectors takes effect

Israel cuts off fuel supply to W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities choked off gasoline supplies to the occupied West Bank Sunday after 450 Palestinian police and tax collectors resigned in protest against the Zionist state's occupation.

The army confirmed a Palestinian died after being shot in the eye in a clash last week. Arab reports said a five-year-old boy

PLO refutes alleged call on deputies to resign

AMMAN (Petra) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Sunday categorically refuted the contents of a statement which was allegedly issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza calling on deputies representing the West Bank in the Lower House of Parliament to resign.

An official statement issued by the government said PLO Office Director Abdul Razak Al Yahya had obtained a copy of the actual statement directly from Jerusalem, providing conclusive evidence that it contained no reference to Parliament members or anything that might harm the national unity of the two banks of River Jordan.

According to the official statement, a copy of pamphlet number 10, dated March 10, 1988 which was received by the government in Amman is under urgent review.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai summoned Yahya to his office Saturday and informed him of the contents of the pamphlet and pointed out the seriousness of such calls and their negative consequences on the national unity and the common struggle of the Arab people on both sides of River Jordan.

Rifai also pointed to the danger inherent in tampering with the current Palestinian uprising and diverting it from the enemy to brothers and companions in the joint struggle, according to the official statement.

The prime minister noted that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, "has faith and trust in the national stands of all factions of the Palestinian people, and is confident that they are capable of confronting and dealing with all suspect calls which can only serve the enemy's objectives," the statement said. The statement said Yahya was surprised at the contents of the pamphlet and called the prime minister at midnight Saturday night voicing the PLO's total denial of such calls as included in the pamphlet. Yahya Sunday produced a copy of the genuine text of the pamphlet circulated to the people in the occupied Arab territories, the statement said.

The government statement said that this incident "underscores the importance of public awareness to counter all attempts designed to divert the uprising from its noble objectives."

died from burns sustained by a gas grenade.

After two fuel trucks were set ablaze in the West Bank and others stoned, the occupation army banned fuel trucks from entering the occupied West Bank, the daily Maariv newspaper said.

A senior official in the West Bank military government confirmed the report. "We will arrange for fuel deliveries only to places where it is vital for public services," said the official who demanded anonymity.

In the West Bank town of Bethlehem, service station owners said they would be out of gasoline by the end of the day.

Station owner Rabaa Abdin said he had run out of regular and his high-test would last only a few hours. He said he called the fuel company but got no clear answer on availability of gasoline.

Yussef Mansara, a physician, told a reporter while waiting in a line for gasoline that fuel shortages would cause hardships, and "I think it will only encourage the uprising."

The army confirmed economic restrictions had been imposed on Qabatiyah, where an alleged collaborator was hung from an electrical pole last month by an angry mob after shooting a child to death.

The village, which has a stone quarry, will be barred from exporting its products to the East Bank and will be unable to receive visitors from abroad, an army official said. Qabatiyah is also without electricity, he said.

A police ministry spokesman said 450 of 850 Palestinian police officers in the West Bank and Gaza had handed in their papers after underground leaflets called for their resignations.

He said Israeli police might be called to help but not enough could be summoned to provide

(Continued on page 5)

Kuwait assails U.S. move to close PLO U.N. mission

KUWAIT (AP) — The Kuwaiti government, adding an official voice to widespread condemnation of the United States in the news media along the Gulf, Sunday denounced U.S. moves to close the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office at the United Nations.

Gulf newspapers, sharply criticizing the decision by the U.S. Justice Department, have also called for Arab action to counter the move.

"The decision, which runs counter to the host country's legal obligation under the (U.N.) Headquarters agreement, implies a flagrant defiance of the feelings of the entire Arab Nation," said a cabinet statement read to reporters after the weekly meeting by the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashid.

"While the cabinet condemns this decision which involves sheer hostility to the just cause of the Arab people of Palestine, it expresses astonishment that this step should coincide with the fierce uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories," Rashed said.

He said the cabinet also noted that the step coincided with "the demand for world support to, and solidarity with, the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and its sole legitimate representative, PLO."

U.N. faces limited options, page 5

Death toll rises to 4 in Israeli raid on Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — The bodies of three Palestinian fighters killed in Saturday's Israeli air strike on five military positions near this southern Lebanese town were recovered from rubble Sunday, police said.

Israeli jets Saturday bombed the five positions in the Mieh Mieh and 'Ain Al Dilih areas near Sidon, 40 kilometres from Beirut, wounding 10 people.

Sunday's police report raised to four the death toll in the attack.

The raid, the second on Lebanon this year, was apparently in retaliation for the hijacking of an Israeli bus by Palestinian commandos in the Naqurah desert last Monday.

Wazir: Raids will not end uprising

In Amman, a Palestinian military leader said Saturday Israeli air raids on Lebanon would not end the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza or deter resistance attacks on Israel.

"The Israelis would be wrong to assume that such raids will end the uprising. They will only fuel the flames," Khalil Al Wazir, deputy military chief of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told reporters in Amman. He said Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza had so far used only crude weapons such as sticks and stones in three months of protests against Israeli occupation.

"But in areas away from these popular confrontations, the Israelis should expect operations against military or strategic targets to raise our people's morale and confuse the enemy."

Wazir: Raids will not end uprising

Wazir said attacks such as Monday's bus hijacking in which three Israelis were killed might damage the image of the uprising in the eyes of the world.

"But our people in the occupied territories must have the feeling they are not being left to confront the occupation on their own," he said.

'Nothing new in U.S. plan'

Turning to the U.S. proposals for Arab-Israeli peace that was submitted to Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Israel by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz last week, Wazir said: "The American proposal does not offer new ideas. Just the well-known, old American ideas."

"The Americans still refuse to deal directly with the basic factor in the conflict. They won't accept the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and they won't acknowledge the PLO as its sole, legitimate representative," he said.

"The U.S. involvement in the Middle East... is part of an international move to help Israel after the popular uprising," Wazir said.

He said the U.S. administration was trying to "keep the world busy by talking about peace, without really aiming at achieving results."

Wazir criticised the U.S. decision Friday to close the PLO mission at the U.N. headquarters in New York.

"This is practical evidence of Israeli blackmail on the American administration. It shows there is no real willingness to deal with the issue of true peace," he said.



His Majesty King Hussein meets a visiting Finnish delegation Sunday (Petra photo)

Jordan seeks just, comprehensive Mideast peace settlement — King

AMMAN (Petra) — The Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza is the natural outcome of world failure to find a just and durable peace settlement to the Middle East problem, His Majesty King Hussein Sunday told a visiting Finnish delegation.

The King reiterated Jordan's stand that an international conference attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and convened on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 is the only forum for achieving just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The King noted that all countries as well as a large number of Israelis and Jews outside Israel support the call for such a conference.

The King expressed hope that ongoing efforts aimed at establishing peace and ensuring security for all nations of the region would succeed in finding a just and comprehensive solution for the Palestinian question.

Earlier Sunday, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai received the Finnish delegation.

Rifai briefed the delegation on Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict and said the Kingdom was seeking a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict

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Iraq says Iranian offensive foiled

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said its ground forces beat back an Iranian attack in the central sector of the war front Sunday and its warplanes attacked a tanker in the Gulf. Baghdad also accused Iran of shelling civilians and said it would fire a ground-to-ground missile at Tehran in retaliation.

Iraq's Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Prime Minister Hussein Musaevi as saying construction of air shelters in major cities would "turn the country into a strong fortress."

He was speaking after members of the cabinet sent him a letter calling for a speeding up of shelter-building, following a savage 12-day missile exchange that killed scores of civilians.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported more than 1,000 Iraqis were killed in the 3½-hour

ground battle in the central sector that began late Saturday and ended early Sunday.

Iraq did not comment on the report, but IRNA reported that in a separate raid farther north, Iranian Revolutionary Guards and anti-government Kurdish guerrillas killed or wounded 450 Iraqis.

An Iraqi military spokesman said late Sunday 21 civilians had been killed so far in Iranian shelling and Iraq would fire more missiles unless it stopped.

The spokesman did not say when the retaliatory missile would be fired at Tehran.

He said Iran had begun shelling residential areas of the town of Halabja, 240 kilometres north-east of Baghdad, Saturday and the bombardment was still going on. It had injured 79 people, he added.

UAE leader begins state visit to Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan arrived in Cairo Sunday on his first visit in nearly a decade.

Zayed, the first Arab leader to visit Egypt since most Arab states resumed relations with Cairo four months ago, was welcomed by President Hosni Mubarak in a red carpet ceremony.

Zayed's programme during his three-day visit includes a trip to the UAE pavilion at Cairo's International Trade Fair and a state banquet hosted by Mubarak.

He and Mubarak are due to hold their first formal talks Monday which officials said would deal with the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the new U.S. peace plan, the Gulf war and



Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan

inter-Arab relations.

The two leaders last met in January when Mubarak toured Gulf states.

Crown Prince, Zia hold talks in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met here Sunday with Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and discussed questions related to a conference of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers due to open in Amman later this month.

The Crown Prince and Zia also discussed the general situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza, regional economic and political issues of mutual concern and bilateral relations.

Prince Hassan arrived in Islamabad Saturday on a brief working visit.

The Crown Prince held talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo Sunday.

The Crown Prince returned to Amman late Sunday.

Iraq fires missile into Tehran

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq said it fired a missile into Tehran Sunday in retaliation after Iranian artillery shells struck Iraqi border town, killing 21 people.

The attack came just two days after the two countries began an uneasy truce that followed a 12-day missile duel on each other's capitals in which scores of civilians were killed.

"If the Iranian regime continues its aggression, then our retaliation will continue with all-out strength," a military spokesman said here over Baghdad radio and television.

Iraq's Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, confirmed that Tehran was hit but gave no reports on the site of the blast, casualties or damage.

"Iran's Muslim combatants will severely retaliate, an unidentified spokesman was quoted as saying."

It appeared that both sides were poised for a full-scale resumption of the "war of the cities," although an Iraqi military spokesman earlier had said the missile fired at Tehran was intended as an isolated attack.

The Iraqi spokesman said: "The Iranian rulers who were forced to stop the war of the cities after being taught very bitter lessons, thought they will spare their capital from Iraqi attacks and then resume shelling Iraqi border towns."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein visited the northern sector of the Gulf war front after the shelling began, according to Baghdad Television.

Pakistan to announce Afghan decision today

QUETTA, Pakistan (Agencies) — Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said Sunday Pakistan would take a final decision Monday whether to sign a U.N.-mediated Afghan peace accord in Geneva.

He told reporters he had completed a process of consultations and "will take a final decision tomorrow," when the peace talks in Geneva resume after a two-day break.

"You will know whatever decision is made," he said.

The Soviet Union has offered to withdraw an estimated 115,000 troops in Afghanistan within nine months beginning on May 15 if Pakistan signs the agreement by March 15.

Islamabad insists on a neutral transitional government being set up in Afghanistan to oversee the withdrawal and to encourage about five million Afghan refugees

to return home from Pakistan and Iran.

"We have to inform them of our decision by March 15," Junejo told a meeting earlier in the day in Quetta, capital of Baluchistan province bordering Afghanistan and Iran.

The meeting was the latest in a series of consultations by the prime minister with politicians, parliamentarians and other groups to arrive at a national consensus on the issue.

Although Moscow and Kabul have accused Islamabad of blocking what could be an imminent Soviet pullout, Junejo's stance has solid public support in Pakistan.

At an unprecedented meeting with leaders of all parties of his political opposition, including Benazir Bhutto of the Pakistan People's Party, nearly all leaders

supported the Pakistani stand as long as it does not wreck a possible military accord.

Junejo said Sunday Pakistan wanted the transitional government to represent the guerrillas, the refugees and the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) of President Najibullah.

"A genuinely representative Jirga (assembly) of the Afghan people... should decide the shape of the future set-up," he said.

The Western-backed guerrilla groups, most of which are based in Pakistan, have refused Kabul's offer to join a coalition government and have decided to set up a transitional government of their own.

Most of the Pakistani opposition politicians who Junejo met last week advised him not to

make the transitional government a pre-condition for signing the agreement, which has been negotiated through U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez.

Also Sunday, the main guerrilla alliance fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government met to select a new leader amid reports the rebels may send a delegation to Geneva.

Guerrilla sources said the new leader would be announced later, perhaps Monday when the indirect talks in Geneva between Pakistani and Afghan delegations resume.

The sources said the guerrillas' plan to send a team to Switzerland was one of the reasons for the resignation Saturday of the alliance's leader, Mohammad Younis Khalis.

Afghan rebels in disarray, page 4

Beyond barriers of culture, tradition

By Jean-Pierre A. Fenyo
Special to the Jordan Times

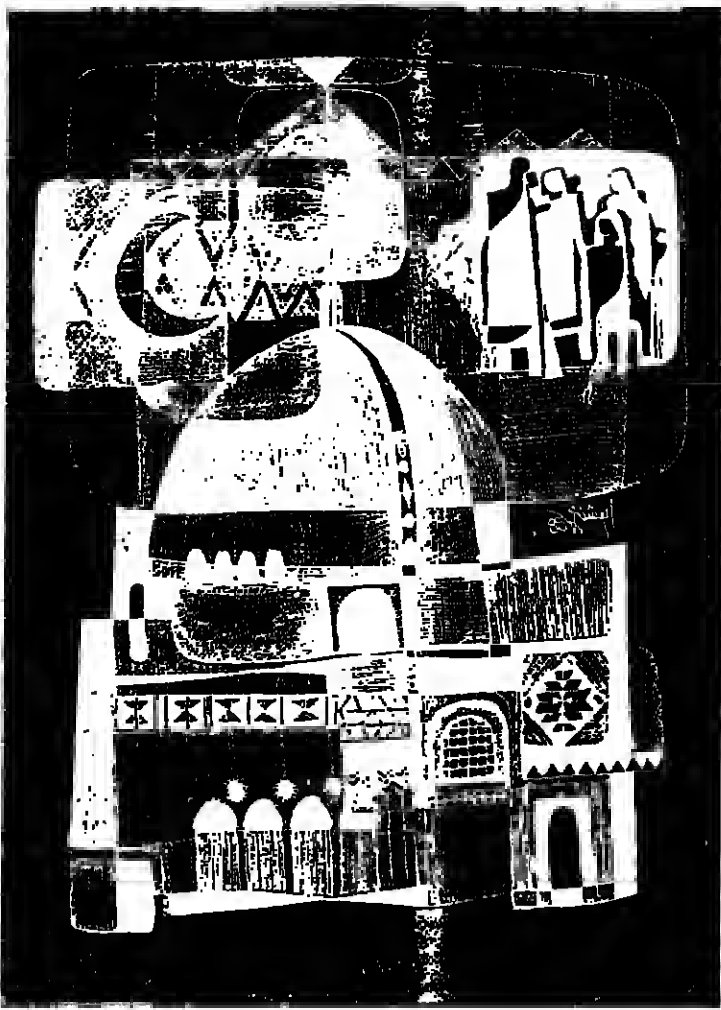
AMMAN — The building where we met, tucked along the bridge-tunnel intersection of Hussein Ibn Ali & Ibn Sina Streets, shows little external indication of its use. However, once inside, one discovers that it houses some of the greatest treasures, and unique people in Jordan. Mr. Saleh K. Abu Shindi, a greying, round-faced middle-aged man is one of these people. After seeing his art work, and record of achievements I just had to ask him his vision of the future.

He takes a few moments to ponder my question. Then, with a sigh of relief, the Jaffa-born artist looks up at me and with the air of a clairvoyant, says:

"I see the future of art, and the artist, in Jordan as (being) predominantly concerned with the preservation of the local folk arts, and Islamic heritage. Yet, the artist," continues Abu Shindi, who obtained a B.Sc. in fine arts and an honorary diploma in art education from Cairo University nineteen years ago, "will use different, more modern methods and styles to express his vision of his heritage. Always towards simplicity, but with a little bit of intricacy here and there in his work, so that our art heritage will always retain the roots, its distinct variation. There will be more freedom to explore within the slowly but not less expanding perimeters of our society's culture and religion. Iraq and Egypt will continue to lead in the arts, but Kuwait and Gulf states are catching up, and Jordan, will (have to) do its very best to show its potential in the world, and Arab World of Arts. If true peace with dignity and justice happens for our peoples then it is sure that an increase in Jordanians' interests in the arts will also happen, and we will then be able to develop our society to its fullest."

An energetic person

Abu Shindi is a very active person full of energy who, aside from teaching elementary art at 'Janhal Universal School (a private Islamic school), instructing art students at an official art institute, and working as a lecturer in fine arts (since 1982) at the Department of Art at Yarmouk University three days a week, finds time to raise a family of three children, and still has the energy to play Ping Pong at the Hussein Palestinian Refugee Camp. If you were to ask him what he gets out of all this, why he does it, he will answer by showing you a small sampling of his vast collection of sketches, drawings, and paintings. Some are of villages in Jordan and Palestine, others show Arab women relaxing, and then there are those really interesting and wild interpretations of cultural objects such as oil lamps, coffee pots, and ancient Bedouin folk costumes. Though most of his art-works are concerned with Arab culture and Islamic heritage, he has Picasso's sense of universalism, and some of his works are beyond the barriers of



Hassan Bek Mosque in Jaffa

culture and tradition.

Like any accomplished artist, Abu Shindi can draw anything just as it is really seen, yet, unlike most of his younger colleagues, he has the refined ability to see fascinating things never seen before, or which most people overlook, and which most of his colleagues find greater difficulty drawing without losing the subject or object. His art reflects a prevailing trend which he seeks to enrich and nourish as much as possible. One may call it plastic art, modern art, conceptual expressionism, or even sub-realistic, but to Abu Shindi it is what it depicts, as much as what you see in it. Thus his art is an active, unlimited form of discovery, which is just as much directed towards those familiar with their culture as towards those, mostly foreigners, to whom the shapes are strange, but always interesting, meaningful, and in some unusual way "real".

Abu Shindi may very well be, as far as Jordanian art is concerned, a sign of the times to come, but most of his students do not seem to be, as yet, interested in his form of art-in-discovery-of-itself. "But," says the artist, "they are interested in classical arts, because as students successful in this form can go, with ease, into modern (art). They like to make the sketch and outlines correct, but they use inconsistent colours, in this way (they) veer off into modern art." Asked if the cost of materials, particularly oils, water colours, or pastels had anything to do with the "veering off" that Abu Shindi had described, most of his students acknowledged that the high costs and limited variety of available colours had some effect on their

works. Abu Shindi teaches at Yarmouk University both commercial and artistic graphic design, most of his students preferring semi-abstract design in the commercial arts, but he is aware that sometimes he unwittingly influences his students to explore modern art in their own ways, and styles.

A history of devnion

Throughout his career as a teacher of the arts Abu Shindi has participated heavily, and deeply in the activities and affairs of the Jordanian art world. He has had his art-work exhibited in places as far away as New York City, participating in 1964 at the Jordanian pavilion during the New York International Fair. In France, two of his works, along with works by Mohanna Durra, were selected to represent Jordan at the International Young Artists Festival of Paris in 1977. He has staged six solo exhibitions, the first being at the British Council, Amman 1971, the fifth at The Petra Park Gallery two years ago, and this past summer of '87 in Rotterdam, Holland.

He has written articles of Fine Arts, mostly in Arab art magazines and papers. The artist has also given seminars on modern art, and has had his work exhibited throughout the Arab World. Some of his art appeared, around three years ago, in The Jerusalem Star on a weekly basis for half a year. "I see how true it is, that art is part of the community, creating and yet conserving the community," Abu Shindi says. "The purpose of my art has been to revive our cultural and Islamic

heritage."

When the artist was about six, or up to that age, his mother, a Turkish woman married to a Palestinian, would take him with her in the early mornings to a special place on the Jaffa beach-front, near the town, where many of the women, of all ages, would bathe in the fresh Mediterranean Sea waters. Since they would bathe in their under garments and dresses, the contours of their bodies would show, and for this reason the bathing area was forbidden to men.

And it was in the little huts or tents where the women would sit down, drink tea, talk that he developed an eye, sincerely innocent, towards drawing these contours, but with the intention of preserving the cultural heritage of his people. He admits that some of his nudes are slightly sexual in their nature but never in a perverse sense.

In a country that has set for itself such high standards of education, and with such great expectations, Abu Shindi, though far from the perfect brilliance of neutron star exploding, is a Jordanian artist sincerely committed to his Kingdom, and his people, with their affluent culture, and Islamic heritage. He is humble, and does not demand nor even expect to be given attention or admired. Nevertheless, Abu Shindi has had, and will continue to have a great influence on art in Jordan.

"In a Jordan of great progress in our culture, history, and invention, the development of art will, I hope, reflect the value of the community. These young artists are the future of Jordan, and their art shows these values of our culture. I have seen what happens when a society dumps its art, its artists, it then loses something very precious and part of its soul," Abu Shindi said, as he started working on a sketch of an oil-lamp burner on his desk.

I asked him what he saw happening among most Jordanians who pick up an interest in the arts. His answer seemed to contradict his vision of the future of art in Jordan. "The majority want to be like the famous, and exceptional. Wealth — most are also interested in business and commercial art — is not one of their priorities, but it (has) affected their mentality to the arts. They think themselves as much more intelligent and capable when compared with older artists, of two generations ago. There are hardly any young and accomplished artists in Jordan because of impatience due to the fact (that) everything is happening so fast."

Showing some crayon drawings, of children playing in the school yards, that ten and twelve year old students at Manhalah Universal Islamic School had drawn, he said, "This is nice, but this form of creativity rarely goes (develops) further, and this worries me a lot, and should concern our people more."

It seems the future of art in Jordan is yet undecided, but that serious artists value Abu Shindi's trendy style, and that his efforts are just beginning to flourish with renewed energy.

Fayez, Dudin hold talks with Bulgarian delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Bulgarian Red Cross Society (BRCS) met here Sunday with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin and discussed developments on the Palestinian scene and the current uprising in the occupied Arab territory.

BRCS President Kiril Ignatov and his assistant Alexander Marinov heard from the minister a briefing on the latest developments in the Middle East and Israel's policies against the Arab population.

Dudin also voiced Jordan's appreciation of the International



Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez receives Bulgarian Red Cross delegation in his office Sunday (Petra photo)

Red Cross societies for providing assistance to the Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

The two-member delegation, who arrived here Friday, met later with the Lower House of Parliament's Speaker Akel Al Fayez and discussed the latest developments in the area.

Women's role in Palestinian uprising dominates international day activities

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Palestinian women in the occupied territories are equally contributing to the struggle against Zionism not only by encouraging their husbands and children to demonstrate and rise against the occupation, but also by leading demonstrations and participating in the revolt.

A theme of women's strong role in the Palestinian struggle was evident during three activities celebrating International Woman's Day last week.

Speaking on the role of Palestinian women, different speakers agreed that the role of the Palestinian woman is that of the supporting mother and wife, fighter, prisoner, martyr, and mother and wife of martyrs who have fallen under the Israeli bullets.

Another form of Palestinian women's resistance, according to Dr. Jawad Anani, president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) is what he called "the war of the womb".

Anani, speaking at a fund-raising lunch for the Palestinian uprising held by the Professional and Working Women's Club, said that Palestinian women must be encouraged to have as many children as possible to enhance the continuity of the struggle against Zionism.

"Our resistance must be based on preparation of faithful, trained, educated and aware cadres. This is a war of the womb" between Arabs and Jews, and, "our wombs" are stronger than theirs," Anani said.

He added that Arab women and Arab schools "must guarantee the transfer of a father's spirit to his son; brother to brother until the enemy realises that it is not only facing a temporary development but an ongoing army through time."

The 1929 revolution

At a rally supporting Palestinian women at the Professional Associations Complex, journalist Theresa Haddad said that during the 1929 revolution, Palestinian women's movement entered a new era in history.

"When hundreds of Palestinian men were detained, tens of houses demolished, and tens of

children orphaned without financial supporters, women found themselves facing huge responsibilities," Haddad explained.

She added that the main aim of the women's conference held in Jerusalem in 1929 was to organize a women's movement in Palestine to work towards saving and supporting families in need.

"The fact that Palestinian women's history is full of sacrifice and struggle is enough reason for obtaining their freedom, and support must be given to them, especially for their steadfastness on their land," Haddad noted.

Haddad said that women and children who live in Palestinian refugee camps face difficult and humiliating lives with various health and social problems. "These women cannot be helped except through a general struggle towards solving the Palestinian cause — a solution that guarantees an independent national Palestinian state and securing the right to self-determination and the return of all refugees to their lands," she said.

The speaker added that these basic demands require persistent efforts by the Arab national movement and the world liberation movements, "because the Zionist colonialists' aggression and Palestinian dispossession, is directly supported and planned by imperialist governments, headed by the United States," she stressed.

Solidarity with Palestinian women

March 8, internationally recognised as a day of solidarity with women for their professional, civil and national rights, has been recognised by Palestinians under occupation and by international progressive women organisations as a day of solidarity with the Palestinian women in their right struggle against Zionist occupation, head of the Palestinian Women's Federation, Isam Abdul Hadi said at the Professional Associations Complex.

Abdul Hadi added that Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories, not only have to deal with social, cultural, economic and political oppression, but also with genuine suffering as a result of racist and Zionist measures of occupation,

and the state of dispossession.

"The occupation — the longest state of suffering for one people in contemporary history — places increasing economic and social burdens on Palestinian women making them face unlimited and drastic complications," Abdul Hadi pointed out.

She added that Palestinian women, realising that the route to final emancipation is liberating the Palestinian homeland, have placed that goal above any other issue.

By highlighting the liberation of Palestine from Israeli occupation, Abdul Hadi said, "women are currently leading demonstrations and sit-ins, participating in relief work, and helping in the escalation of the uprising."

"They mother the children of martyrs and families of the prisoners, they transfer blood and nurse the wounded, and sing when they receive the bodies of their martyr sons," Abdul Hadi illustrated.

She saluted the spirits of the martyrs, the pride of the prisoners, the dignity of the Palestinian fighters, and the steadfastness of the Palestinians in every village, town and refugee camp.

In the name of all Palestinian women, Abdul Hadi vowed to remain faithful to the memory of "our women martyrs and to continue the struggle until they achieve victory, and until the Palestinian flag flies over our independent Palestinian state."

During a brief gathering in honour of the mothers and wives of Palestinian martyrs at the PAC, Lana, 6, and her brother Musa, 12, whose father is a martyr, recited Palestinian poetry. Lana had recited a poem written about Abu Kamil — the commander who flew into an Israeli military base in a hang glider raid in November just before the uprising erupted on Dec. 9 — at the rally a couple of days earlier, inducing tears out of the eyes of those attending.

She had dedicated the poem to the children stone-throwers in the occupied territories. Musa and Lana, from the town of Halhoul near Hebron, were orphaned along with 7 other brothers and sisters, when their father was shot by Israeli bullets.

EXPATRIATES: A Jordanian consultancy firm will prepare two major studies which will be submitted to the Jordanian Expatriates Conference which will open in Amman in July. The studies are being prepared by Dar International Consultancy firm whose director Talal Abu Ghazaleh discussed the project here Sunday with Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat.

MINISTRY POSTS: Senior posts at government departments specially those of the first, second or third categories can be filled only through a request by the concerned minister to the director of the Civil Service Commission, according to a circular by the prime minister's office Sunday.

CANDIDATES: Candidacy for Amman Chamber of Industry's consultative sectoral committees was closed Saturday, while elections will be held on March 19.

152,534 STUDENTS: The number of students attending Zarga governorate schools increased by 19,000 students in 1988, thus bringing to 152,534 the number of students attending 453 schools and educational institutions in the governorate, including 1,111 students attending the six comprehensive and vocational schools.

HOUSE COMMITTEE: Lower House Agricultural Committee Sunday discussed issues of interest to the agricultural and poultry sectors in Jordan.

ORIENTALIST: University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday discussed with a visiting East German Orientalist from Martin Luther University, cultural and scientific cooperation in the area of oriental studies and exchange of documents and manuscripts.

PATRIARCH SABBABH: Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbabh crossed into the East Bank Sunday and went directly to the northern city of Ajloun where he said mass and met with the Roman Catholic community in the northern regions of the country. Sabbabh's visit to the East Bank is the third since his consecration as patriarch in Rome in January.

PORT WORKERS: The General Union of Workers in Aqaba port and clearing officers will hold their general assembly meeting in Amman Friday to elect a new nine-member board to serve for the coming four years. At least 20 candidates contesting the seats are grouped into three separate blocs, and are seeking support from the 800-member union.

JVA PRESIDENT: Jordan Valley Authority President Mohamad Bani Hani will Tuesday deliver a lecture at the University of Jordan on controlling the use of irrigation water in the Jordan Valley.

NEW DEPARTMENT: Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi has created a new department at the ministry to be charged with the task of following up the implementation of services for the ministry's projects.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:00 Koran
14:30 Children's programmes
14:45 Live transmission from Riyadh (football - Kuwait vs. Oman)
16:00 Maths, History
17:20 Oliver Twist
17:55 Educational programme
18:20 Arabic series
19:10 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Local programme
22:10 Programme on prominent Arab Writers
23:00 News Summary

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Histoire Naturelles
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine (French)
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Are You Being Served?
21:10 Vanity Fair (New classic drama-series)
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Munster. Go Home!"

RADIO JORDAN

853 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW
Tel: 77111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Just a Minute
11:00 My Music
11:30 Readings
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session Contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Special Feature
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Young Sound
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Sports Roundup
18:30 Music
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1223 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Augustus Carp
06:45 By Himself 06:45 Reflections
07:00 World News
07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30
07:45 News Summary 07:45 Recording of
the Week 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 On
the Border 08:30 World News 09:00 24
Hours: News Summary 09:30 The Desert
Daily 10:00 World News 10:09
Reflections 10:15 Augustus Carp
10:45 By Himself 10:45 Anything Goes
11:00 World News 11:00 British Press
Review 11:15 Good Books 11:30 Financial
News: Sports Roundup 11:45
Peebles' Choice 12:00 News Summary: On
the Border 12:30 The Vintage Chart
Show 12:40 World News 12:49 News
About Britain 13:15 Health Matters
13:30 Album Time 14:00 Radio News
14:15 Six A Minute 14:45 Sports
Roundup 15:00 World News 15:09 24
Hours: News Summary 15:30 Anything
Goes 16:00 News: Outlook 16:45
Carnery Row 17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:15
On the Border 17:45 Capriccio 18:00
World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15
On the Border 18:30 Chatterbox Reaction
18:45 The World Today 19:00 World
News 19:09 Book Choice 19:15 Best on
Record 19:45 Sports Roundup 20:00
Newsdesk 20:30 Multiracial 1: Top
Twenty 21:00 News Summary: Outlook
21:30 Stockmarket Report 21:45
Peebles' Choice 22:00 World News
22:30 Twenty-Fours: News Summary
22:30 Sports International 23:00 News
Summary: Network UK 23:15 The
Unclaimed Promise 23:30 Vintage
Chart Show 24:00 World News

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1200 & SW 2200, 9505, 11740,
11925 and 15310 KHz

06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA
Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline
07:30 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10
Newsline 16:30 Music USA 17:00
News 17:10 Focus 17:30 Special En-
glish News & Features 18:30 News
18:10 Newsline 18:30 Magazine Show
19:00 News 19:10 Focus 19:30 Special
English News & Features 20:00 News
USA Newsline America 20:30 Music
USA 21:00 News & Editorial 21:15
Music USA Jazz 22:00 News 22:10
World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

20:00 hrs French Cultural Centre & Ajlouni Cinema-Sweilch.

EXHIBITIONS

* Art exhibition by Mahmoud Taha at Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (runs through 14/3/1988).

* Book exhibition at the Comprehensive Commercial Centre (Tower Building), Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle (permanent).

* Exhibition entitled "La terre entre vos mains" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 17).

* Islamic book exhibition at Yarmouk University in Irbid (until March 14).

* Exhibition of photos about Woodcuts and typesetting in Germany at Mu'ta University in Karak (until March 15).

* Book exhibition at Arabian Club, Irbid (runs through March 17).

* "Fifth Caricature Exhibition," works of the late Naji Al Ali at Hussein Camp Youth Activities Centre.

* General book exhibition at the Professional Associations Complex in Shamsi.

* Art and Audiovisual exhibition at Ein Ghazal Secondary School (March 14).

* Exhibition of artificial flowers, ceramics and handicrafts. Pizan Hotel from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (runs through 18/3/88).

VIDEOS

* "Videos about environment at the French Cultural Centre (until March 15).

CONFERENCE

* "Un de 'ti techniquet an 4'eme millenaire Par Nathalie Valanti 18:00 hrs French Cultural Centre.

CINEMA

* "Journal d'une femme de chambre

FEATURE FILM

* "The Colour of Money" 7 p.m., American Centre.

* "The Hiring" 7:30 p.m., British Council.

CULTURAL WEEK

* Cultural week, at Ein Ghazal Secondary School from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. runs through 19/3/88.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubweidh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Terraced Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Lubweidh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 623383, chaplain's residence: tel. 601359.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.

St. Eustachius Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsi, Tel. 675334.

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.

Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd Church) Interdenominational-ecumenical English Service: Sunday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 822605, Rev. Veli.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815817, 821264.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:20 Larnaca (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:30 Kuwait (RJ)
09:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
09:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
09:35 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:25 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:55 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:45 Beirut (RJ)
23:55 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:20 Sana'a (LH)
09:30 Baghdad (IA)
09:35 Cairo (MS)
12:00 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
12:40 Kuwait (KU)
18:25 Beirut (ME)
21:30 Vienna, Istanbul (AF)
06:30 Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30 Paris (RJ)
11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)

12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
19:00 Jeddah (RJ)
19:35 Kuwait (RJ)
19:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
19:55 Baghdad (RJ)
20:15 Beirut (ME)
20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30 Cairo, London (BA)
08:30 Beirut (ME)
10:10 Frankfurt (LH)
10:20 Cairo (MS)
16:20 Vienna (IA)
13:45 Bahrain (GF)

PRAYER TIMES

15:00 Kuwait (KU)
21:30 Baghdad (IA)
01:30 Paris (AF)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It is likely that high and low clouds will appear with temperature gradually rising during the day. The wind will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, the winds will be northerly and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 10 / 23
Aqaba 10 / 23
Dahab 4 / 15
Jordan Valley 8 / 15

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11.3, Aqaba 21.6, Humidity readings: Amman 62 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Amman Civil Defence 196, 199
Civil Defence Irbid 271283, 77131
Civil Defence Qweishieh 770723
Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 198
First aid 63041
Blood Bank 778343
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 62209

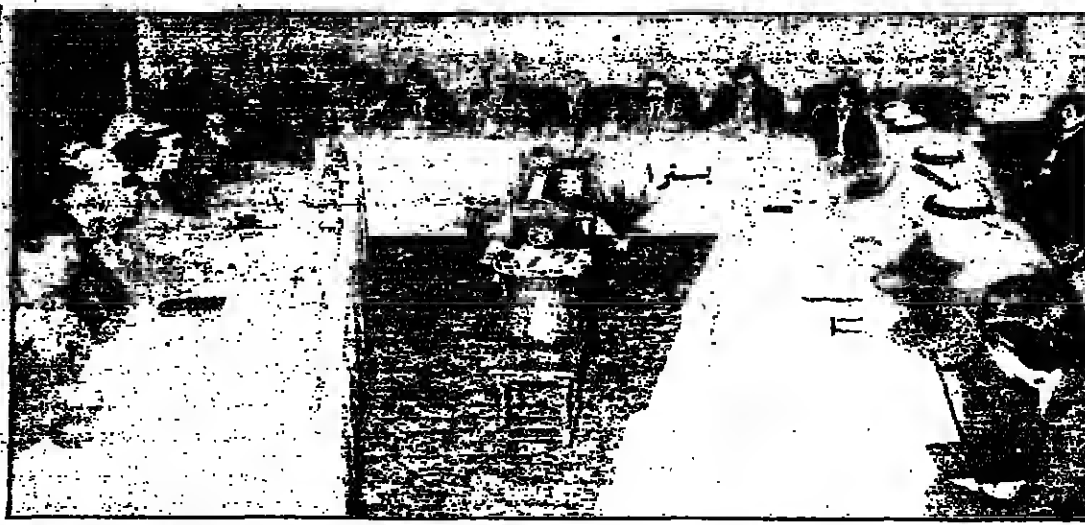
Ministry seeks to improve employees' efficiency

AJLUN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is pursuing endeavours to update the skills and improve the efficiency of employees in municipal councils with a view to modernising their operations, the ministry's Secretary General Awad Al Tal said here Sunday.

Speaking at the opening of a training course for the heads of municipal councils in Ajloun and Jerash districts, Al Tal said that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs attaches great importance to municipal councils which it considers as institutions for building the local community and serving public interests.

Ajloun District Governor Mohammad Talhoumi made a speech, underlining the importance of developing administration and planning on sound and scientific basis, so that more efficient employment of municipal resources can be made.

The course is being organised by the ministry in cooperation with Yarmouk University.



Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Secretary General Awad Al Tal speaks at the opening of a training course for heads of municipal councils in Ajloun Sunday (Petra photo)

Major religious ceremony to be held at Al Hussein Mosque Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — A major religious ceremony will be held at Al Hussein Mosque, in downtown Amman, Tuesday afternoon on the eve of Al Israa Wal Mi'raj feast, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The announcement said that the ceremony, which will be held under Royal patronage will include religious speeches by prominent Muslim scholars and ule-

was, religious songs by school students and an exhibition of religious books as well as a documentary film depicting current works on the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat has instructed preachers and imams in various regions to lead religious ceremonies on the holy occasion.

According to an order issued by Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin all liquor stores, bars and nightclubs in Amman and its suburbs will be closed from Tuesday evening and until Thursday morning.

The feast falls on Wednesday, March 16, when all government departments and public institutions will be closed.

National Aid Fund gives financial assistance to 118 more families

AMMAN (Petra + J.T.) — In the course of providing emergency assistance to needy families, the National Aid Fund (NAF) conducted studies on 300 cases in January and February and decided to offer 118 of them monthly financial assistance, NAF Director General Khalil Faouri announced Sunday.

He said that NAF is already giving up to JD 40 a month in financial assistance to nearly 9,000 families in the Kingdom, and providing emergency jump sum assistance to families facing disastrous circumstances, such as the loss of the breadwinner of the family.

Faouri said that in some cases NAF is providing JD 100 once a year to difficult cases as well as

continuing to provide the needy families with their monthly assistance.

In addition to financial assistance, NAF has spent JD 13,780 on vocational training for unemployed heads of needy families to enable them earn their own income, and JD 936 on the physical rehabilitation of others during the past two months alone, Faouri noted.

He said that up to JD 3,000 can be available to a single needy family for starting a workshop, of which 35 per cent will be in the form of a grant, and the rest as a free-interest loan, repayable over long periods of time in small instalments.

NAF provides a sum of JD 600 for a handicapped person for obtaining artificial limbs, bearing aids or other instruments that can be benefit for him and his family, he added.

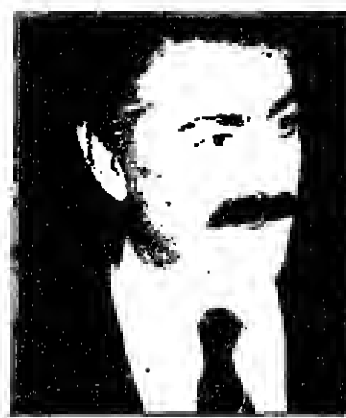
The NAF last year distributed a total of JD 25,497,000 a monthly basis to 10,061 families, and contributed JD 6,503 towards the rehabilitation of 57 persons, according to a NAF bulletin issued in January.

Upon its inception in 1986, the NAF announced that the government had allocated JD 1.5 million to provide assistance to the poor, and that this would be augmented by donations from various individuals, voluntary societies and organisations.

The fund is governed by a board chaired by the minister of Labour and Social Development. Meanwhile in Karak, the NAF branch distributed JD 17,700 in cash to needy families during the past two months.

The branch director said that 433 families in the Karak Governorate benefitted from this assistance.

Dajani: Citizens to have 'national numbers'



Rajai Dajani

AMMAN (J.T.) — Interior Minister Rajai Dajani was quoted as saying that arrangements are being made for giving each citizen a separate "national number" within a computerised system to be employed by the Civil Registration and Passports Department.

He told Al Dustour Arabic daily that the new measure is bound to save time and effort while referring to documents pertaining to each citizen for any government procedure.

According to the minister, the government merged the Civil Registration and the Passports

Departments into one unit upon a recommendation by the Royal Commission for promoting the work of the national civil service.

He said that citizens dealing with either of these departments had to produce the same documents in the course of obtaining a passport or a civil registration card, and the merger will no doubt reduce expenses and save effort.

Cabinet forms team for human settlements meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has formed Jordan's delegation to a conference of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements due to open in India on April 6.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawadeh will lead the delegation to the six-day conference, according to an official statement.

It said that the Cabinet also formed a delegation which will pay a visit to Tunisia on March 20 to inspect educational development in that country.

The delegation will group educational supervisors and directors in a number of Jordanian provinces.

Jordan, S. Arabia discuss cooperation in education

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian-Saudi Arabian cooperation in higher education was discussed here Sunday at a meeting between Ministry of Higher Education Secretary General Ahmad Al Tal and Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Mushari dean of the Science Department at King Saud University in Saudi Arabia.

The meeting, which was attended by a team accompanying Mushari and senior aides to Tal, was dedicated to prospects of mutual cooperation in promoting higher education in both countries.

Mushari said his university would like to benefit from Jordan's experiments in higher education and community colleges, and lauded the high level of education in the Kingdom.

For his part, Tal outlined his ministry's programmes for promoting higher education, and said that nearly 32,000 Jordanians are now studying at 57 community colleges and 40,000 others are obtaining higher education at the university level in Jordan and abroad.

Marriott focuses attention on increasing efficiency

AMMAN — Marriott's business philosophy is to take care of its employees, keep them happy and content with their job and they in turn will take care of the customers, according to Mr. Bill Marriott, chairman and chief executive of the Marriott Corporation.

Speaking in a recent interview with Business Life Magazine, Mr. Marriott said "our great attention is focused on training programmes for staff, as these not only develop and enhance skills, but maintain a high level of motivation."

In accordance with this policy,

Amman Marriott Hotel has been transferring its employees all over the Marriott network in the United States and other countries.

The transfer enables these employees to gain increased experience and promote their efficiency, he said. According to Haile Aguilera, general manager of the Amman Marriott Hotel, there are several candidates among the employees who are to be sent abroad for further training.

He also said that nearly 80 per cent of the employees at the Amman Marriott Hotel are Jordanians.

Fashion show to display traditional dresses with 'modern' practicalities

By Mariam Shabin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As a young girl in Baghdad, Hana Sadeq Berando watched her grandmother as she dressed every morning, the Arab thob and the elaborate headress of her grandmother fascinated her from those early moments of her life.

Once she went to school and learned embroidery and sewing, she began making dresses, similar to those of her grandmother, for her dolls. While attending university, where she studied French literature and contemporary arts, she made most of her own clothes, in a style completely new and unique.

Hana combined the basic designs of the traditional dresses with the practicality of the "modern" or Western dress.

Now Hana has embarked on a very ambitious project to create a new, distinct style of clothing for the Arab woman of today. The

designs that Hana has been working on are exactly those which she has always made for herself, designed so as to combine the beauty and comfort of the traditional dress with certain practical aspects of the Western dress.

She basically uses cottons and silks and other materials that have been traditionally used, such as the umbaz. The working woman, for one, is likely to feel much more comfortable in a wide skirt or shirwal than she is in a tight skirt or pants.

Hana has taken her designs from all the Arab countries she has visited, from the Maghreb to the Yemens. She has lived for extended periods in Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus and she has been living in Amman for the last seven years.

Expensive wardrobes
"The morning and afternoon tea ladies," Hana suggests,

"would do well to consider modifying their grossly expensive wardrobes, most of which are imported and are a reflection of cultures and traditions foreign to their own. Some young women in Jordan have already begun to adapt what could be called an 'ethnic' trend. They would be the ones to benefit the most from this new fashion, as it allows above all else for comfort and freedom of movement, essential for those who work, take care of homes and raise children.

"Jordanian women have shown a tendency to overdo, whether it be hairstyles, makeup, or the far too decorative and busy fashions they wear, which are neither a comfort to the eye, nor allow for freedom of movement or are light on the pocket book," Hana said.

Hana has met several women in Jordan who, when asked why they don't adapt a more "Arab" style of dressing, excused themselves by saying that they don't feel comfortable in it, failing to realise that these designs specifically create comfort.

Hana's designs are geared to suit what she calls the more Arab or Mediterranean figure, not too tall and not always too thin. Most of the dresses and blouses are widely cut, but have optional belts and the pants-shirwal have elastic waistbands.

Hana points out that because the lifestyle of the Arab woman is more complex now than before, and the social fabric has become more complicated, there is a need for her clothing to be as simple as possible in order to create a balance and harmony. For those occasions which require a fancier or more decorative look, Hana uses a wide variety of oriental silver jewellery, whose designs she has collected from throughout the Arab World.

"In recent years there has been a growing market in Jordan for costume jewellery, imported and made in anywhere from Taiwan to Western European countries, with a price range of anywhere from 10 piasters to JD 50, and with our local gold and silver smiths losing customers daily. Hana believes it is a shame that place should be made in the jewellery boxes of Arab women for these creations of metals, plastics, and straws.

"Almost anything can be created locally if people just put their minds to it and the customers encourage the local fashion artists." Besides, Hana points out that a woman who invests in gold or silver, makes a much more valuable permanent investment.

Rejected in France

In the late 1970s Hana faced considerable difficulties trying to market her designs in France, a country whose nationality she retains. She reports that the retailers there were extremely anti-Arab, her designs were initially welcomed as 'Israeli fashions' but when told that they were Arab designs, were immediately rejected. The calligraphy, that Hana decorates some of her dresses with, she was told, would remind the European buyer of the "terrorist Arabs." She continued to make attempts to market her goods at prices where she would make as little profit as JD 1 per item, yet to no avail. "It is rather ironic that both Arab clothing merchants and Arab ladies literally bend over backwards and spend all the money that they have to acquire French fashions," Hana says.

Cottons and silks from Syria

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The Salt Dress re-designed by Hana Sadeq Berando.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية اليومية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Two of a kind

EVERYWHERE one turns one detects more and more similarities between Pretoria and Tel Aviv. Recently South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha was quoted as saying that his country "was strong enough to withstand any measures the international community could implement." This arrogant defiance of the will of the world against Pretoria's apartheid policies came in the wake of its recently implemented policy and its disregard for criticism from other countries about its on-going crackdown on the indigenous black people who oppose South Africa's racial policies. The banning of 18 major black groups from any political activity by the government of South Africa was part and parcel of its new iron fist policies against the various anti-apartheid groups operating in the country. To sum up this new escalation in South Africa's hostility to mounting international criticism, South Africa's ambassador to the United Nations had this to say to the United Nations Security Council: "We will not bow to your threats or demands and we reject your accusations with contempt and invite you to do your damnest."

Doesn't this echo faithfully the policies and attitudes of Israel in the face of increasing international criticisms of its iron fist policies against Palestinians and Arabs in the occupied territories? When Israeli arrogance and defiance of the international community go as far as forbidding foreign journalists from reporting on its oppressive measures against the people of the occupied territories, in order to conceal the truth and facts from international scrutiny, Israel follows on the steps of its allies and friends in Pretoria.

It is not a fact that the so-called self-rule or autonomy formulas that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir insists on are nothing more than policies of apartheid in disguise being contemplated for the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation? In many ways, Israel has become a spitting image of Pretoria. No wonder there is a growing strategic alliance that binds the two racist regimes.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arab response?

WASHINGTON'S final decision to close the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission in New York in violation of its own pledges and commitments when the U.N. organisation was established, is tantamount to Israel's breaking of Arab youths' bones in the occupied Arab territory. The U.S. measure, which has been condemned by many nations, is being practised before the whole world, and is considered as a complementary action to that being carried out by Israel in the territories it has occupied since 1967. The American decision is not directed against the PLO alone but rather against the whole Arab Order, and should be regarded as an attempt to prove that the Arab governments are impotent and incapable of doing anything to safeguard the interests of the Arab Nation. But the Arabs are called on to thwart this theory and prove to the world that their determination and will is far from being broken by the United States. Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh described the American move as yet another blow to U.S.-Arab relations, expressing Jordan's deep regret over such action. It should be emphasised that by this action the U.S. has violated its agreement with the United Nations and has thus abandoned its eligibility as a peace-broker in the Middle East.

Al Dustour: PLO, Arabs, U.N. versus U.S.

THE U.S. decision to close the PLO mission in New York serves as a direct blow to the United Nations organisation and the Arab American relations which are already shaken in view of Washington's bias towards Israel. The decision is considered as a violation of U.N.-U.S. agreements and America's commitment to the world organisation, and comes at a time when the U.S. is in dire need of credibility for its diplomatic moves and initiatives in the Middle East. The decision is bound to discourage the Arabs to accept the U.S. initiative for a peace settlement between the Arabs and Israel. It should be said that the U.S. Congress is behind this embarrassing situation for the U.S. administration and any worsening of relations between Washington on the one hand and the U.N. organisation and the Arabs on the other. The American decision, which came on the eve of the arrival in Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, constitutes a dangerous step, harming international relations and serving as a precedent of untold consequences specially if the decision is allowed to pass by without resistance from the world organisation and the Arab Nation. We call on the U.S. administration to reject such a decision and enable that country to avoid further embarrassments before the world.

Sawt Al Shaab: Uprising persists

THE Palestinian people under Israeli rule are providing constant evidence that their uprising against Israel's oppression will not end, and that the struggle will not falter until Israel responds favourably to the Arab demands and legitimate rights. The Palestinians have proved that they are determined more than ever before to achieve victory and wrest their rights from the Zionists, and abort all Israeli plans and collusion and intrigues. The Israelis proved wrong in their belief that the world will continue to condone their crimes and atrocities against the oppressed people as it did in the past, and they have been confronted by world-wide condemnations of their actions and their brutality against the Arab inhabitants. But, despite this world-wide support for the Palestinian people's rights, the Arabs can never regain their legitimate rights without a unified stand and a consolidation of resources and efforts. Jordan has been keen on rallying the Arabs and unifying their ranks to achieve that goal, and is continuing this policy for the purpose of attaining the Arab Nation's objectives.



The Israelis and Palestinians finally find something to agree on.

Shultz's pot of stew

By Walid Sadi

IF the Shultz peace plan ever comes to fruition, which is indeed a big if given the open hostility expressed to it already by Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud bloc, the ultimate fate of the whole American plan could very well hinge on the exact meaning accorded to the amorphous equation of "land for peace," by the principal parties to the Palestine case and the overall Arab-Israeli conflict. The U.S. and Israel are already on record that United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, which serves as the basis of the Shultz peace initiative, envisions the trading of some Arab territories by Israel for comprehensive peace by the Arab side. This has been the hallmark of the Israeli and American interpretation of the said resolution ever since its adoption in the wake of the 1967 Israeli-Arab war. The Arab side, on the other hand, has faithfully clung to the proposition that Resolution 242 calls for complete Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied by Israel in the war of 1967 including East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. Interestingly enough, the Arab conceptual outline of "peace" to be exchanged for land with Israel was never construed as to go beyond the ending of the state of war between the Arab states and Israel and the de jure recognition of the state of Israel within internationally recognised boundaries.

Viewed from these perspectives, the seemingly unbridgeable gaps between the Arab side and Israel over the full contents and dimension of "peace" and the extent of Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories would certainly be the formidable tasks which would confront the negotiating parties under the Shultz proposal and the fathomable rock on which the whole U.S. peace formula could crash. This is not to mention the fundamental differences that exist between the two sides on how to give full expression to the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people" in the context in which they are mentioned in the Shultz plan, which, by way, have yet to be spelled out and more clearly articulated and defined.

With regard to the "peace for land" formula which has finally gained currency and acceptance worldwide, it must be noted that as the Arab side is committed to the principle of complete Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories, any deviation from this principled position would surely necessitate the convening of an Arab summit to give advice on and bestow consent to any such variations. And the more substantial are the territorial changes asked of the Arab side, the harder it is going to be to secure an inter-Arab blessing of such border rectifications. But with even the Labour Party in Israel and its chief echelons committed already to the thesis that Israel will never entertain full Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories including East Jerusalem and Golan Heights, one wonders how far the negotiating parties are going to get under the Shultz peace scenarios. Of course all this gloom about the peace prospects between Israel and the Arab side would dissipate if the Israeli stance on the withdrawal issue turns out to be only a bargaining chip which could be traded away depending on the contents and dimensions of the "peace" that the Arab side will be prepared to grant Israel when and if a deal is about to be struck between the two sides. Otherwise, the whole exercise anticipated to ensue from the activation and animation of the Shultz idea will not bear much fruit beyond the realisation of some sort of interim trade off between the two parties which would call for limited "peace" for

limited Israeli withdrawal.

Thus, sooner or later, the whole negotiating process envisaged under the Shultz masterplan will fall or rise on the intricate interrelation that could be weaved by the negotiating parties between the "peace" and "territorial" components of the "land for peace" formula. Surely, the two negotiating sides must carry with them to the negotiating table much imaginative and contingency counter proposals, profound innovative ideas and open mindedness in addition to their fixed and principled negotiating positions. Otherwise the chances of success are doomed before the projected negotiations are kicked off.

Having said all that, it must be noted that the general political climate, both regional and international, is most propitious now for meaningful negotiations between the principal adversaries. On the American scene, the Reagan administration is on record as describing the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a time-bomb in the lap of the Israeli occupying authorities and is now calling for an end to Israeli occupation. U.S. Secretary Shultz has recently said this in so many words. Also recently some thirty U.S. senators, considered to be staunch Israeli supporters in the U.S. Congress, have written a letter to Shultz criticising Shamir and company for their rejection of the Shultz plan and its "peace" for "land" foundation. Moreover, American public opinion has undergone significant transformation in support of the Palestinian rights in the wake of the Palestinian popular uprising and the brutal iron-fist Israeli reaction to it. On the Israeli side, there are positive developments occurring there as well. Over and above the open revolt by Shimon Peres and his Labour Party against Shamir and his Likud bloc for their intransigence, the fact that some 100 senior Israeli officers have also voiced their concern to Shamir over his open rejection of the Shultz proposal, clearly points out that there is a remarkable erosion in the Israeli support to the Likud and its platform on the issues of war and peace in the Middle East. These officers have specifically called for the relinquishment of the Zionist fantasy dream of Greater Israel in favour of accommodation and peace with the Arabs. Only a few days ago Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a renowned hawk and the proponent of the iron-fist policies in the occupied Arab territories, has finally conceded that the Israeli settlement campaigns in the Arab territories have back-fired. All in all, the glorious Palestinian revolt in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has played a most critical catalytic role in making many overdue conclusions to be drawn on the Israeli country, people and government alike. As for the Arab side, their early call for the faithful implementation of Resolution 242 and the exchange of peace for land have been vindicated. All the parties concerned could have saved much blood and anguish had Israel acted in good faith as early as 1967 to negotiate an honourable peace agreement. Yet the political stew which is being cooked up for the peoples of this region is not quite ready. There is room for amendments and improvements here and there in the Shultz plan in order to make sure that all the necessary ingredients are put in the overall pot and that they are there in proper proportions as well. No one wants an over-cooked, under cooked, or deficient stew. Shultz is certainly a masterful political cook and after tasting what he had already contrived, he should be able to detect what spice or element he needs to add or manipulate into his grandiose gourmet meal.

Afghan rebel front leaderless as Geneva peace talks deadlocked

By Raja Asghar
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — The main guerrilla alliance fighting the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan has suddenly become leaderless, raising a question about its credibility amid deadlock at the Geneva peace talks.

Alliance leader Mohammad Younis Khalis resigned Saturday, citing "health problems" only a day after he persuaded another resigning party leader to rejoin the fold.

But other guerrilla sources said the resignation at a meeting of the alliance's supreme council in Islamabad was caused by differences among the seven Western-backed rebel parties about the future of their war-torn country. "He has pain in the head," a spokesman for Khalis's Hizb-I-Islami party said. "So he has expressed his inability to lead the alliance in the rapidly changing situation."

No new leader was immediately elected, leaving succession open to renewed squabbles which have marked the alliance's seven-year existence.

Western diplomats said they were surprised by the development, coming only three days before the Soviet-proposed date for the signing of a U.N.-mediated Afghan peace settlement in Geneva.

Moscow has offered to withdraw its estimated 115,000 troops in Afghanistan within nine

months beginning on May 15 if Pakistan signs the settlement by March 15.

But Islamabad insists on seeing a neutral transitional government in Afghanistan before that for a safe return of about five million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and Iran.

Pakistan is host to more than three million refugees and most of the guerrilla groups which have fought the Kabul government for nine years.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo was to hold the last of a series of public meetings Sunday in his eleventh-hour moves to evolve a national consensus on the Afghan issue.

Most of the opposition politicians he met last week advised Junejo to sign the peace accord without making the transitional government a precondition.

NEWS ANALYSIS

But he said in a speech Thursday the issue would remain unresolved if the Afghan refugees did not return home in safety and honour. "At the same time, if the Soviet troops withdraw but the government of (President) Najibullah remains, the refugees will not return to Afghanistan."

The guerrillas, who have dissociated themselves from the U.N. peace process, have proposed their own transitional government without any share for the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) which they say is

Communist.

An Asian diplomat, who did not want to be quoted, said a guerrilla split would embarrass Pakistan in the face of a hard line taken by Moscow and Kabul, which have rejected the demand for a transitional government.

The Soviet Union has also turned down Pakistani and U.S. demands to cut military aid to the Afghan government if the proposed four-point U.N. peace plan is to work.

The current round of the Geneva talks, which opened on March 2, is to resume on Monday after a two-day weekend recess.

U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez has asked the Afghan and Pakistani delegations to come up with clearer mandates as a way of breaking apparent deadlock.

The original four points of the peace plan, which has been negotiated since 1982, have almost been finalised after Kabul agreed to the main Pakistani demands about a troop withdrawal timetable.

But the signing has been held up by Pakistani insistence on a transitional government, an issue which also became the immediate cause of the latest guerrilla rift.

Jabha Nijat-i-Milli party leader Sibghatullah Mojaddidi resigned from the alliance last week saying he did not agree with its interim government plan and wanted the matter to be settled by a wider traditional *loya jirga* (grand assembly).

Jabha is one of three alliance parties which analysts describe as

"nationalist", and Mojaddidi accused Pakistan of discriminating in distributing arms and other foreign aid for the rebels to favour the four Islamic "fundamentalist" groups.

But bowing to appeals from Khalis and his own followers, he returned to the alliance Friday, saying the leaders of the other parties and Pakistani authorities had assured him they would consider his demands.

Khalis resigned when the alliance met to discuss Mojaddidi's objections and proposal to send a delegation to Geneva to meet Cordovez, the guerrilla sources said.

"This shows the rift was only hushed up rather than patched up," an Afghan exile said.

Another major source of disagreement in the alliance is the exiled former King Zahir Shah who lives in Italy after being overthrown in 1974 after a 40-year reign.

The "nationalists" have close ties with him and see him as a potential unifying national leader. But the "fundamentalists" accused him of being too close to the Soviet Union and fiercely oppose his return.

There is no place for Zahir Shah, says fundamentalist guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. "It is out of the question that the Afghan nation will accept a man like him."

Afghan exiles supporting the rival groups have in recent weeks held rallies in Pakistan for and against Zahir Shah.

Randa Habib's Corner

Mr. X is so busy

CALLING people holding key posts at government or private institutions can be quite an experience. I am not talking here about high ranking officials, ministers and executives who normally have very tight schedules. No, I am referring to subordinates, who are "important" enough to have their own secretaries.

You pick up the telephone and call one of those VIPs for a matter that could be of vital importance.

"Can I help you?" the secretary asks.

"Yes, I wish to meet with Mr. X."

"And may I know your name?"

Mrs. Y"

"And whom do you represent. I mean who are you and does Mr. X know you?"

"No, he does not. I am just a citizen who wishes to discuss an important matter with him."

"Could you please leave your telephone number and we will get back to you as soon as possible."

After sometime you realise that Mr. X is never free. Having waited in vain for a reply call, a week later you call again. The same voice tells you that her boss is in a very important meeting and suggests taking notes of what you want to discuss with the person in question.

After another exercise of futile questioning by the secretary you request at least to have a telephone conversation with Mr. X, since the matter requires urgent personal contact. But you discover that Mr. X is so busy he cannot even come to the telephone.

OPEN FORUM

Where is madam?

AS women start taking a more active role in society, many are finding it imperative to seek help in domestic affairs at home, which has become somewhat monotonous and time consuming for the otherwise busy women.

Far from being a non-controversial issue, the final decision on this subject, however, remains, as should be, within the family members themselves.

The government is making it difficult for Jordanian families to employ foreign domestic helpers, by imposing higher fees for their work permits. Here again there are supporters and opponents of these measures.

Granted that some women need domestic help and others do not, all the same, both types of women do employ house helpers. Whatever the argument for and against this may be, there is always a story to tell.

While preparing an article on the emancipation of women, I had to interview some women over the telephone. I started dialing different numbers.

"Hello, is madam there?"

"No madam go 'shupul'."

The second responding to the same question:

"No madam go mother house."

So, I went through my list one by one and each time,

"No madam go....."

Finally I called a housewife whom I felt would give me substantial statements about "housewifery in Jordan, advantages and disadvantages," and guess what?

You guessed:

"No madam go to the OUT."

Norween Murad

LETTERS

Clarification

To the Editor:

IN reference to your article published 10.3.88 (Pharmacies selling expired medicine), I would like to explain the following:

First: It is no secret and no discovery that there exists medicine in pharmacies that does not carry manufacturing and expiry dates. The ministry knows about it and this is not in violation of world drug control regulations because it was imported before 1983, when it was not necessary that each medicine carry an expiry date, and this was observed in other parts of the world, where manufacturing companies did not put expiry date on each medicine but only on antibiotics.

Second: Scientific and technical committees and health authorities in several countries throughout the last ten years have cited the need for each medicine, of any kind, to carry a batch number, and a manufacturing and expiry date.

Jordan implemented this in Nov. 21, 1983, while Britain announced a similar action in November 1984. It was decided in Jordan that the maximum validity period allowed is five years from manufacturing date, provided that a study is presented proving validity during that period.

Countries were given five years to use all medicine (the quantities are huge) which does not carry manufacturing and expiry dates in addition to the batch number.

These five years end on Nov. 21, 1988 for drugs in Jordan, and Nov. 1989 for drugs in Britain, while in the United States, there was no limits on the consumption of these medicines in the market.

This means that after Nov. 21, 1988, there will be no more unmarked medicine in Jordanian pharmacies.

In addition, since Nov. 21, 1983, there had been a ban on the import or manufacturing of any medicine without batch numbers and expiry dates. Furthermore, it is compulsory that each drug invoice must mention the batch number and the manufacturing and expiry date of each drug, and samples must be taken of each medicine before allowing its circulation to make sure of the information in the invoice.

Thus, the drugs mentioned in the Jordan Times report, and there may be others, have all been imported before Nov. 21, 1983, and are subject to drug control tests at any time, whenever there is suspicion or a complaint.

Third: According to article 43 of the pharmacies law of 1972, which controls the profession and the registration and dealing in drugs in Jordan, drugs are registered in Jordan by a technical committee in accordance with the law. The committee includes three members chosen by the Pharmacists Association council: Those are the association's president or somebody he appoints, a drug agent, and a pharmacist, in addition to the president of the Jordan Medical Association or someone he appoints, plus two members appointed by the minister. One of whom must be a doctor and the other a pharmacist.

It could coincide that the member representing the Pharmacists Association may happen to be an owner of a drug store or an agent of a drug company.

This shows that the majority of members do not have personal interests. In addition, it is assumed that all members should have scientific integrity and complete knowledge of the field. The work of this committee is commended in Jordan and in all Arab states, many of whom copy its working methods and take into consideration its decisions and recommendations.

Fourth: It is not true that the minister of health could not be reached as I remember that he referred to me a journalist from your newspaper and I have made several attempts to contact him and leave him a message. And I believe he also contacted me at home but I was not there. In any case, from my position of responsibility, I am ready to clarify anything related to this subject from any citizen or journalist.

Finally, I hope you publish this clarification in your newspaper. Thanking you for your good cooperation.

Hussam Eddin Musmar,

Director of pharmacies and drug quality control,
The Ministry of Health.

U.N. faces limited options in U.S. row

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

The United States order closing the PLO's Liberation Organization (PLO) mission is painful for the United Nations, but options for retaliation are limited, officials say.

Delegates upset by the order have spoken about moving U.N. headquarters away from New York if the body cannot be master in its own house. But virtually no one believes this is more than rhetoric.

The U.S. Justice Department said Friday that the PLO mission, set up 13 years ago at U.N. invitation, must shut down in nine days.

Starting a new U.N. headquarters in another country is an impossible dream for an organization deep in debt because of the nonpayment of many members' dues, including more than \$200 million in United States arrears, officials said.

Holding a General Assembly session in Geneva, the other major U.N. headquarters, would be a near impossibility because of high costs and lack of facilities. Under-Secretary General Joseph Verner Reed, the official in charge of assembly affairs, told reporters Saturday.

Officials said that, as a gesture, a special session of the General Assembly on disarmament due to open in New York in late May might be transferred to Geneva. Reed said this idea was feasible, but several sources said it was not a popular option for many members, including Arab states.

'Dead letter'

Meanwhile, the 1987 headquarters agreement between the United States and the United Nations that established the New York headquarters could become a dead letter if the United States would not abide by its obligations, officials said.

Asked about the status of the accord now, Reed made the motion of tearing up and throwing away a sheet of paper, and remarked to reporters: "In the trash can."

March 21 is the deadline set by the United States "anti-terrorism" act for closing the PLO mission and "Attorney General Edwin Meese said in a letter Friday that on that date its presence in New York would be unlawful."

Truce in 'war of the cities' may revive U.N. efforts for peace in Gulf

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

KUWAIT — The truce in Iran and Iraq's deadly war of the cities could revive U.N. efforts to end the wider Gulf conflict, according to diplomats.

Hundreds of civilians were killed or wounded in two weeks of tit-for-tat missile strikes that jolted the conflict back into the world headlines but sidetracked a U.N. Security Council attempt to end it.

Before the truce took hold Friday, Iraq — by its own count — fired 68 missiles at Tehran, Esfahan and the holy city of Qom while its bombers pounded other cities.

Iran launched at least 30 missiles at Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul and carried out air and artillery attacks on other civilian centres.

"Two weeks have been lost but we're back on the rails now for a follow-up resolution to 598," a Western diplomat said, referring to last July's U.N. Resolution 598 that calls for a total ceasefire in the 7½-year-old war.

During the "war of the cities" which started Feb. 27, Iraq said it wanted to force Iran to accept the ceasefire.

Baghdad may also have been seeking to focus international attention on the conflict and push the Security Council into a long-debated arms embargo against Iran, which vows not to stop fighting till Iraq is branded "the aggressor."

But diplomats said the attempt backfired when the Soviet Union sought separate Security Council action to end the missile war.

"The Iraqis realised that bombarding Tehran was doing them no good at all at the United Nations," a diplomat said. "The Soviet initiative distracted the council from the Iran arms embargo, which is exactly the opposite of what they

wanted."

Iraq bitterly attacked the Soviet move, which was praised by Iran.

The Soviets have often argued that Iran should be given more time to accept 598, although Britain and the United States have in recent weeks claimed Soviet backing for an embargo.

"The war of the cities intensified international interest in the war, but in the wrong way," said the diplomat. "The Iraqis may have decided it was counter-productive."

But Iraq had the satisfaction of firing the last shot, one of five conditions for ending the truce. Iran said it would not retaliate for an Iraqi missile fired only minutes before Friday's 1300 GMT deadline.

Balance of power

And Iraq showed its own people and the world that, after previous setbacks on the battlefield, it can set the terms of engagement and trounce Iran in firepower, diplomats said.

"Iraq has illustrated the present balance of power between the two belligerents by showing its advantage in air strength and weaponry and controlling when and where the fighting takes place," a senior Western diplomat said.

In the past two winters there were major Iranian ground offensives. But this year's long-awaited attack has yet to start amid reports Iran has had trouble mobilising enough men.

Diplomats said Washington and London would continue seeking backing in the Security Council for an arms embargo.

But they said Moscow may be more concerned now with the conflict in Afghanistan, where Iranian-backed rebels could derail a proposed political settlement and Soviet troop withdrawal.

American lawmakers unhappy over aides' meeting with PLO chairman

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some lawmakers have criticised a group of congressional aides for meeting with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in January, just weeks after Congress voted to close PLO offices in the United States.

The secret, two-hour meeting, which took place in Baghdad, became publicly known last week. It was arranged by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, the group that paid for the congressional aides' trip to Iraq Jan. 11-19.

The meeting, described as an open exchange between Arafat and the aides, was held shortly after Congress passed legislation shutting down two PLO offices in the United States on the grounds

they represented a "terrorist" organisation.

"It was very foolish, very wrong," said Congressman Larry Smith, a Democrat. "He (Arafat) is not going to change his positions because a Capitol Hill staffer meets with him."

Representative Robert G. Torricelli, also a Democrat, said he was upset when he learned an aide attended the Baghdad meeting with Arafat.

"Sbe acted independently, and I had no knowledge of this meeting nor would I have approved it, and I remain very disturbed about it," the staffer no longer works for Torricelli, but left for personal reasons unrelated to the meeting.

But another lawmaker was un-

fazed by his aide's attendance at the meeting.

Rep. Edward Feighan, another Democrat, said his assistant "was not on any official trip and he was travelling in a personal capacity."

Michael van Dusen, staff director of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, said seeing Arafat was "extremely unwise when as a matter of law American officials are not supposed to negotiate with the PLO... I wouldn't do it."

U.S. policy — set by Congress — prohibits officials in the executive branch from negotiating with Arafat or members of the PLO until the group recognises Israel.

The policy does not apply to Congress, and a few lawmakers, as well as members of their staff, have met openly with Arafat.

Ronald Cathell, the executive director of U.S.-Arab council, said he would not release the names of the congressional staff members who attended the Arafat meeting or travelled to Iraq. He said he feared they would be subjected to reprisals for going to the meeting.

The council, which seeks to promote understanding between Americans and Arabs, receives its money from grants and private and corporate contributions.

Cathell said the original agenda did not include seeing Arafat. But when the group arrived in Baghdad, the council learned the PLO leader was in town and broadened the possibility of a meeting with the congressional aides.

Torricelli complained the U.S. embassy in Baghdad failed to advise his aide about U.S. policy prohibiting official negotiations with the PLO. Cathell said the embassy simply told the group its own people couldn't attend the meeting because of U.S. policy.

Sudan begins move to mediate Egypt-Libya rift

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese head of state Ahmad Ali Al Mirghani flew to Libya Sunday carrying what he called comprehensive proposals to improve relations between Egypt and Libya, arch rivals for more than a decade.

The independent Al Ayam daily quoted Mirghani as saying he discussed the proposals with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during his one-day visit to Khartoum 12 days ago.

A spokesman for the presidential palace confirmed the report but gave no further details.

However details of Mirghani's proposals were revealed Saturday in an article published by Al Adwa newspaper.

It said Mirghani would propose to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi that both countries halt media attacks on each other, refrain from meddling in each other's affairs and pull back troops from border areas.

The article said a later phase of the plan provides for Egypt and Libya to restore diplomatic relations and resume trade.

Mirghani, who heads the five-man Supreme Council acting as Sudan's joint presidency, is a member of the pro-Egyptian Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

The DUP is junior partner in the coalition government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, whose Umma Party maintains close ties with Libya.

Egypt, which fought a brief border war with Libya in 1977, has reacted suspiciously to past mediation attempts, largely because of Cairo's belief that Tripoli was behind several sabotage operations in Egypt.

Qadhafi said in an interview published Sunday in Cairo he was not interested in a rapprochement with Egypt.

"We do not want to have any relations with Egypt," he told the weekly Sawt Al Arah. "You consider us non-existent on the map

and we consider you the same. Thank God we have the great desert ... to separate us."

Sudan's relations with Libya and Egypt have been at the centre of foreign policy differences between the DUP and Umma. Recent reports of the presence in Western Sudan of Libyan-backed forces involved in the Chad conflict deepened their differences.

At least 10,000 people, led by opposition National Islamic Front, defied a government ban and marched in Khartoum Saturday to press demands for decisive government action to clear western Sudan of foreign military contingents.

Al Umma, daily organ of the Umma Party said Sunday the Interior Ministry and Khartoum's commissioner's office ignored a cabinet decision to ban the march and allowed it to take place.

Both Interior Minister Sidahmad Al Hussein and Khartoum Commissioner Karam Mohammed Karam are leading DUP members.

Qadhafi lifts travel ban

According to the Libyan news agency JANA Qadhafi Saturday publicly tore up lists of people banned from travelling outside Libya and returned seized passports to their owners.

"Libya is the land of freedom. There should not be a person imprisoned or another banned from travelling," he told crowds outside the Tripoli passport office.

Qadhafi said travel bans were shameful because they violated human rights, reported JANA.

Continued from page one

Israel cuts off fuel supply to West Bank

(Continued from page 1)

the same service. The government may offer wage increases to attract new recruits and keep veteran police, he said.

Resigned police officers wearing civilian clothes could be seen leaving a district headquarters building in Bethlehem after making their resignations official.

Israel made last-minute efforts to retain the police but offers of big pay rises, life insurance and offers to be licensed to carry personal weapons were turned down, reports said.

Dozens of Palestinian tax collectors also have resigned, and Palestinians have been called on to stop paying taxes.

But a senior Israeli official said tax receipts were down only about 10 per cent for January and February. The taxes are used to fund the \$239.3 million annual budget.

Israel Radio said the Palestinian policemen were belatedly

offered wage parity with their Israeli Jewish colleagues. One policeman said he had only earned about \$500 a month, roughly two-thirds of an Israeli police salary.

Many Palestinian nationalists supported the move and said that former police would get backing from their communities.

"This is the first time I feel the policeman is a Palestinian, a human being," said a Palestinian journalist after the resignations.

The elected mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Freij, told Reuters the move could backfire as security and judicial systems break down. But he added that Israel would also suffer.

"It's going to be like a snowball — it will grow and it will drag (everything) with it," he said. "An avalanche begins small and gets stronger and stronger."

Arab spokesmen said they believed many more resignations would follow among the 20,000

Palestinian public sector workers in the occupied areas who receive salaries from Israel.

Protests were reported elsewhere. Palestinians said Jewish settlers opened fire on an Arab car near Nablus Saturday night.

Witnesses said an Israeli driver and passenger escaped injury when a petrol bomb was hurled at their bus, setting it ablaze near Ramallah.

In the Gaza Strip, relief workers said 53 Palestinians were treated for beatings, rubber bullet wounds and tear-gas inhalation at a U.N. health centre in Jabalya refugee camp after clashes there Saturday.

"The figure is not unusual," a spokeswoman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said. "Last week, we had three successive days with over 30 injured. On two days, the injury toll for all the camps in the Gaza Strip was more than 100."

Palestinian sources reported that all 25 Palestinian employees of the department that collects Israeli value added tax in Gaza resigned Sunday.

The move followed the mass resignation of 48 Gaza income tax collectors last week and seemed likely to severely hamper tax collection.

Shamir heads for Washington

(Continued from page 1)

for Israel, repeated his opposition Sunday but stressed the disagreement with Israel's most important ally was "no more than an argument between friends."

"What was proposed isn't necessarily what is most important and helpful in our eyes," Shamir said on the radio. "I will propose... (my own) ideas and it is possible they (U.S. officials) will see something they will be able to bring before the Arabs."

The U.S. proposal calls for taking two steps this year: Enacting Palestinian "self-rule" in the West Bank and Gaza and starting talks on the final status of the occupied territories. Those negotiations would be kicked off by an international conference.

For his part, Shamir will suggest implementing Arab "self-rule" in the occupied territories on a step-by-step basis, holding peace talks under Soviet-American auspices instead of an international peace conference and using a more flexible time schedule to start negotiations, said Shamir aide Yossi Alhimer.

Shamir is scheduled to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Monday and will meet with Reagan Wednesday, officials said.

Labour Party legislator and former U.N. Ambassador Abba Eban also left for the United States Sunday, saying he hoped to make it clear to American officials that the prime minister

represents only half the Israeli government. The other half, he said, would like to see Israeli involvement in the peace plan.

"We can't appear as a country that refuses every chance for peace," Labour legislator Rafi Edri said on the radio. "Shamir doesn't want to hear that a few billion other people live in this world and he doesn't live alone. But the time has arrived for him to return to reality."

Economy Minister Gad Yacobi said: "The rejection of the U.S. peace initiative could be a historic blunder that weakens Israel and turns it into a non-democratic bi-national state, isolated in the world."

In an interview with the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times published on the eve of his arrival in Washington, Shamir played down his differences with U.S. officials and American Jewish leaders as a "misunderstanding among friends, and I think it's not difficult to settle this misunderstanding."

Shamir expressed confidence that U.S.-Israeli relations would not be damaged even if he failed to reach agreement with the Reagan administration.

Meanwhile Syria and the U.S. Congress also have dealt separate blows to Washington's Middle East peacemaking ambitions, according to diplomats in the region.

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4) Baer Alkafra Water Line	CC/16/88	JD 25:000
5) Yazeedyah Water Line	CC/17/88	JD 25:000
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AMMAN JORDAN

Arab countries to discuss energy cooperation today

KUWAIT (R) — Looming oil shortages in poorer Arab states and a sharp drop in income among wealthier countries due to falling oil prices top concerns at Monday's Arab energy conference in Baghdad.

The Arab World collectively owns more than half the world's known crude oil reserves and boasts several of the world's biggest oil exporters.

But some Arab states such as Morocco and Sudan must import petrol and other oil products at great cost and others may have to do so soon.

"It is imperative that efforts be directed toward enhancing coordination between the Arab countries," said the March bulletin of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), one of several pan-Arab groups that organised the conference.

OAPEC says total Arab refining capacity totalled 274 million tonnes per year in 1987, more than enough to meet total demand for refined products of some 180 million tonnes.

But the refineries are on average only three-quarters used, and many poorer Arab states must import.

"The focus of the main refineries is to export to foreign markets," OAPEC Acting Secretary General Abdul Aziz Al Wattari said last week. "This picture must be altered through creation of a Common Arab Market."

Papers at the conference will examine ways to distribute refined products and gas to have-not states, improve refinery utilisation and boost output of lighter products such as petrol and diesel.

The conference will also examine alternatives such as solar and nuclear energy which Wattari said are essential if the Arabs are to meet energy demand in the next century.

OAPEC says Arab demand for refined products will grow at an average of five per cent annually through the year 2000 when it will almost double to 339 million tonnes.

By that time, experts warn, some of the smaller oil producers like Egypt will no longer be able to meet home demand.

Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Libya all have nuclear power programmes under study, the last three with Soviet help. But Wattari told reporters development of an Arab nuclear power industry faced determined resistance from Israel and the West.

He also said the Arabs must rationalise energy consumption and cut subsidies that encourage it.

Noting conservation efforts in

the West, he said: "We in the Arab World should be no less concerned with managing demand. For some it has become a necessity."

The oil ministers of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Algeria — all members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) — are scheduled to speak and officials said Kuwait's Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah would lead a round-table discussion on the world oil market.

OPEC succeeded in pinning world oil prices at around \$18 a barrel for most of 1987 through production restraint after a 1986 collapse in the market.

But since the beginning of 1988 oil prices have slumped by up to \$4 a barrel and some OPEC states have called for an emergency meeting of its price committee.

"Low prices and the instability of markets have slashed Arab oil revenues from \$200 billion in 1980 to \$50 billion in recent years," OAPEC says. "This has had a devastating impact on development."

OAPEC officials expect informal consultations between the Arab oil ministers. But most of them oppose any immediate OPEC action to shore up the market, believing that oil prices will firm on their own in the coming months, analysts say.

Previous Arab energy conferences were held in Abu Dhabi in 1979, Doha in 1982 and Algiers in 1985.

CBJ relaxes interest curbs on bonds

AMMAN (J.T.) — Holders of development bonds issued by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) are now entitled to part of the interest on their bonds when, and if, investors sell the bonds before their date of maturity, according to a CBJ official quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic newspaper.

It said that the measure, adopted for the first time in the country, allows the holders to partial interest in accordance with a CBJ official price index on financial securities which appears in the daily Arabic press.

Previously, beneficiaries who wanted to sell their bonds before maturity date risked losing all interest on them.

Under the old arrangement, beneficiaries can claim the total amount of interest on their bonds only two weeks before their maturity.

CBJ Deputy Governor Maher Shukri said in a lecture Saturday that work was underway for amending the public debt law so that it can cope with developments in operations involving government securities traded on the secondary market.

Shukri who was addressing a seminar said that recent CBJ measures aim to promote operations



Central Bank of Jordan Deputy Governor Maher Shukri (centre) Saturday delivers a lecture on newly introduced measures to develop trading in government financial instruments.

at the Amman Financial Market and open new investment and financing opportunities.

Opening new financial channels in the market and increasing the volume of trading in shares and securities is bound to activate the demand and supply process, Shukri said.

This, he added, calls for more efforts to channel savings towards fruitful investments in the country.

The development of the secondary market, Shukri noted, will no doubt encourage the CBJ to opt for an open market that would further serve the national economy.

In his lecture, Shukri confirmed that all banks in Jordan are not required any more to allocate a certain margin of their deposits for purchasing securities and government bills.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sunday's trading reversed the momentum which cheered many investors Saturday as only 273,127 shares changed hands for a volume of JD 350,262 covered by 395 contracts. Shares of Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries accounted for about 40 per cent of the total number of shares traded but, due to the low price of the share, the volume was only JD 28,458.

In terms of volume, National Steel Industries accounted for nearly 33 per cent of the total. The other two companies which recorded a volume above JD 20,000 were Arab Bank and Intermediate Petrochemical Industries which involved 210 shares and 29,500 shares respectively.

Shares of only 44 companies changed hands Sunday but the share prices of Arab Bank, Bank of Jordan, Jordan French Insurance and National Steel Industries recorded fluctuations above the 50 fils range.

Trading at the parallel market covered 18,620 shares costing JD 12,873.

638 development bonds exchanged hands for JD 6,957.

Housing Corporation loses

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation posted a loss of JD 500,000 last year as its revenues amounted to JD 8.781 million while its total expenses reached JD 9.281 million. This year, the corporation's revenues are expected to reach JD 10.49 million and negotiations are underway to obtain a JD 5.49 million loan from the Social Security Corporation (SSC), according to Al-Dustour Arabic newspaper.

The loan is needed to finance the Zarqa, Batrawi-housing estate, work on which is expected to start in the coming month.

Sources said individuals who obtained loans from the corporation are abiding by their commitments through monthly payments. However, the corporation has complained that government departments which obtained loans to set up housing units for their employees in rural and remote regions, as well as urban centres, are not fulfilling their commitments despite the fact that there are specific government instructions requiring all concerned departments to allocate funds from their budgets for paying their dues.

Jordan French Insurance may give 51% dividends

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan French Insurance Company (JFIC) is expected to distribute dividends to its shareholders at the rate of 51.7 per cent, up from 50 per cent last year, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab Arabic newspaper. It said that the announcement will be made at a general assembly meeting to be held on March 24.

The company was reported to have posted a JD 517,000 net profit based on total volume of premium earnings amounting to JD 4.5 million. The newspaper reported that the company plans to open a life insurance branch during 1988 in cooperation with the American Lincoln National insurance company which earlier acquired shares in the JFIC capital. Accordingly, American, Arab, French and Jordanian representatives will be on the JFIC board of directors.

Jordan National Bank announces 15% dividend distribution rate

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan National Bank announced that it will distribute dividends to its shareholders at the rate of 15 per cent. The bank last year made a net profit of JD 1,992,536 against JD 1,989,384 in 1986, when dividends were also distributed at the rate of 15 per cent.

Saudi British Bank posts 1987 loss after raising loan reserves

RIYADH (R) — Saudi British Bank Sunday reported a 1987 loss of 4.4 million riyals (\$1.2 million) after boosting provisions against bad and doubtful loans.

Saudi British, the sixth of nine joint-venture banks in the kingdom to report 1987 figures and the first to record a loss for the year, said it set aside 42.7 billion riyals (\$11.4 million) in loan loss provisions.

The Riyadh-based bank said the new reserves increased total coverage to 10.5 per cent of

outstanding advances compared with 8.2 per cent in 1986 and 6.1 per cent in 1985.

Saudi British had reported 1986 net profit of 8.6 million riyals (\$2.3 million) and bankers said it had spent the last year consolidating its position and cutting overheads.

"While the bank reduced its level of advances, which reflected the overall market trend, it took advantage of this period of consolidation to further restructure its credit management systems

kingdom-wide," it said in a statement.

Saudi British, like most banks operating in the kingdom, had been hit by non-performing loans to local private companies following the decline in oil prices in the 1980s. It said it had stepped up loan monitoring and recovery measures during 1987.

The bank said it had succeeded in reducing expenses in the year by 12.9 per cent despite expansion of its branch network. The number of staff fell to 962 from 1,147 at the end of 1986.

Ministry regularises salt trading

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabbaa Sunday issued the following new regulations to organise salt commercial trading:

1- Sale and distribution of raw salt for industrial companies will be confined to the Al Azraq Cooperative Society (ACS) in accordance with the ministry's regulations and specifications;

2- Raw salt produced by the Arab Potash Company (APC) will be sold to ACS and the Arab

Salt Company at the rate of JD 15 per tonne;

3- Raw salt will be sold by ACS to Jordanian industrial firms at the rate of JD 16 per tonne;

4- The ACS and the Arab Salt Company will sell refined salt to bakeries in Jordan at the rate of JD 30 per tonne in packets of 25 kilograms each;

5- Refined table salt will be sold to food processing companies, except bakeries, at the rate of JD 65 per tonne;

6- Mills in the Kingdom will only deal with selling and distributing refined salt bought from the ACS and the Arab Salt Company. No mill will be allowed to engage in raw salt dealings.

7- Table salt is to be sold to consumers in plastic bags each containing one kilogramme at the rate of 150 fils each and in plastic containers of 700 grammes, at 160 fils each.

The new regulations go into effect immediately.

Belgian diamond trade sparkles in '87

ANTWERP (R) — Belgium's diamond trade sparkled in 1987, with sales unaffected by the crash on world stock markets in October.

The Antwerp-based Diamond High Council said in its annual report that turnover rose in value last year by 21.5 per cent to \$9.5 billion.

The share crash had no effect on trade, with sales of finished stones to the United States — the world's largest polished diamond importer — buoyant at Christ-

mas, Mark Van Den Abeelen, the council's director general, told a news conference.

Trade was expected to grow at the same rate in 1988 thanks to a surge in demand on the back of a world economic revival, Walter Baert, the council's spokesman, told Reuters.

Antwerp was also set to maintain its position as the world's leading diamond trade centre, he added. In 1987, Antwerp accounted for 85 per cent of world trade in rough diamonds and over 50 per cent of trade and manufacturing in polished stones.

Diamond sales last year accounted for six per cent of

Belgium's exports and two per cent of its gross national product — a key measure of a country's economic activity.

Imports of the gems rose 20.7 per cent in 1987 to \$4.2 billion. Exports grew 26.4 per cent to \$4.5 billion.

But Belgium's diamond industry, which specialises in polishing and cutting rough diamonds, was hit by competition from countries with lower labour costs.

"We are going to fight to get a share of this trade back," Van Den Abeelen said. The diamond industry last year only employed 6,324 people compared with 15,000 a decade ago.

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Tel: 667197/667198/660164/660165.

- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the bidding documents at, the above mentioned office.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security bond of not less than 3 per cent of the bid amount, and must be delivered to the above mentioned office on or before (10.00 a.m.) local time, on (Wednesday) the (June 1, 1988).
- Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives — who choose to attend — at the time and date mentioned in (6) above at the offices of VTC, Amman, Jordan.

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Angola presents new southern African peace proposal to U.S.

LISBON (Agencies) — Angola presented a new peace proposal for southern Africa to the United States during talks last week in Luanda between Angolan, Cuban and U.S. officials, the news agency ANGOP said Sunday.

The official Angolan agency, monitored in Lisbon, said the project involved Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the Namibian nationalist guerrilla group SWAPO and "would permit security in Angola, independence of Namibia and peace for both countries."

"The proposal included a timetable for the withdrawal to the north of Cuban troops stationed in the south and their gradual total evacuation from Angola," ANGOP said, citing a Foreign Ministry communiqué issued Saturday.

The statement gave no other details but repeated long-standing demands that South Africa end its military involvement in Angola and that both Washington and

Pretoria cease aid to right-wing UNITA rebels.

"This gesture of flexibility and good will by the Angolan and Cuban governments is conditioned on the cessation of support by the U.S. and South Africa to UNITA and the withdrawal of South African forces from Angola," it said.

ANGOP said the proposal was presented at a March 9-11 meeting of Angolan Justice Minister Fernando Van-Dunem, Rodolfo Puente Ferro of the Cuban Communist Party's Central Committee and Larry Napper of the U.S. State Department.

"The talks were a preparatory step to the next round of negotiations at a higher level between the two countries," it added, but

did not say when new negotiations would take place.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker has held three rounds of talks in Luanda in the last six months on removing Cuban troops from Angola and achieving independence for Namibia, ruled by Pretoria in defiance of the United Nations.

Some 35,000 Cuban soldiers are stationed in Angola, helping the Marxist government fight rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

UNITA is supported by Pretoria and Washington and has opposed the government since just after independence from Portugal in 1975.

Crocker to meet with Botha

In a related development, the U.S. State Department announced Saturday that Crocker will hold his first talks in two years with South Africa's foreign

minister to try to advance a peace plan for southern Africa.

Crocker's meeting with Roelof "Pik" Botha next week at an unspecified European location also will give the United States an opportunity to "register concern" about recent developments in South Africa, spokeswoman Anita Stockman said. The United States has complained about anti-dissent measures proposed in South Africa in the past few weeks.

Stockman said Crocker's meeting with Botha will "afford an opportunity to reassess South Africa's willingness to proceed toward a settlement involving total Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola and Namibian independence based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 435."

Crocker also is expected to restate U.S. demands for a cessation of cross border forays by South African troops and concern about a new crackdown on groups seeking more rights for the country's black majority.

Kohl to visit Moscow this year

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union this year while Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will come to West Germany in the first half of 1989, Kohl's office announced Sunday.

Exact dates would be decided later, government spokesman Friedrich Ost said in a statement.

West German officials said last year they wanted a Gorbachev visit in the first half of 1988 while West Germany held the presidency of the European Community. But Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said during a visit to Bonn in January that any meeting between the leaders would not even be discussed until the second half of 1988.

Kohl sent relations plummeting in October 1986 when he compared Gorbachev's publicity skills with those of Nazi propagandist Josef Goebbels.

Since then, however, ties have improved markedly with visits to Moscow in 1987 by West German President Richard von Weizsäcker and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Kathmandu mourns stadium tragedy victims

KATHMANDU (R) — The smoke of funeral pyres rose over Kathmandu Sunday as mourning relatives carried the victims of Saturday's deadly stadium stampede to the cremation grounds by the Bagmati River.

Divided on Hindu caste lines in death as in life, the higher-caste victims were taken to the Pashupatinath cremation ground and others to that at Kalamochan some distance away.

The official death toll stood at 75 but doctors said that could rise to 125.

Weeping relatives searched the city's five hospitals for the missing.

Unidentified bodies were laid out in hospital corridors.

The disaster was caused when football spectators fleeing from a sudden hailstorm were crushed to death against gates that, witnesses said, police refused to unlock.

Doctors, blaming lack of medicine and trained personnel in this remote country, one of the world's 10 poorest, said more deaths were inevitable.

India rejects Tigers' latest ceasefire call

NEW DELHI (AP) — The government has rejected the latest call for a ceasefire in Sri Lanka by Tamil rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, an Indian diplomat said Sunday.

The diplomat, who spoke on condition he not be named, said the appeal released Saturday in the southern Indian city of Madras was one "of a series of communications we've received from time to time."

But he said Prabhakaran's actions in Sri Lanka do not match his words.

The diplomat said that Prabhakaran's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest of the rebel groups operating in Sri Lanka, continue to attack rival Tamil militants.

The diplomat also said the Tigers have refused to surrender their weapons, as called for in an Indian-brokered peace accord signed last July and aimed at

ending nearly five years of Tamil guerrilla warfare.

India has an estimated 50,000 troops in Sri Lanka to enforce the accord. Prabhakaran has been operating underground since an Indian offensive against his stronghold in Jaffna last October.

In the communiqué made public in Madras, Prabhakaran renewed the Tigers' appeal for a ceasefire and negotiations to end the conflict. India has insisted that the Tigers lay down their arms before talks are held.

Prabhakaran said he was sceptical the Sri Lankan Sinhalese majority would abide by the peace accord.

"Our concern for our people is based on our legitimate fear of the chauvinistic attitude of the Sri Lankan government, which has flouted the accord by failing to fulfill her commitments," his statement said.

Jackson wins home state; Dole woos voters

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Jesse Jackson easily won the Democratic caucuses in his native South Carolina, while Senator Bob Dole went on Illinois television Saturday night to plead for Republican votes in his bid for the presidential nomination.

Jackson took a commanding lead in the caucuses and maintained a better than 2-1 margin over the uncommitted, who represented the second-largest bloc of delegates being elected to county conventions in South Carolina.

With 59 per cent of the precincts reporting, Jackson won 4,796 county convention delegates for 53 per cent, while the uncommitted trailed with 1,813 delegates for 20 per cent. Teunese Senator Albert Gore was in third place with 18 per cent and other candidates were far behind.

Dole: 'underdog'

In his 30-minute broadcast, Dole said: "I know I'm the underdog in this race."

"The issues are more important than the odds," he said. "I didn't expect this job to be handed to me in the first place."

The Kansas senator, who earlier acknowledged that his campaign team is "hanging by our fingernails," invested \$100,000 in the broadcast in an attempt to stop the momentum of Republican front-runner, Vice-President George Bush.

A Chicago Tribune poll published in Sunday editions said Bush was far ahead of Dole in Illinois, while some state Senator Paul Simon was leading the Democratic field, followed closely by Jackson.

The newspaper also endorsed Gore in the Democratic contest, passing over native Simon and

Jackson, who has made Illinois his adoptive home state.

"I dare George Bush to debate Bob Dole," Dole told a news conference earlier Saturday. In originating his broadcast from Knox College in Galesburg, he had picked the time and site to conform to Bush's appearance at the same location, he said.

Bush has refused Dole's challenge for a debate.

Gore, whose success in southern primaries on March 8 catapulted him into contention in the Democratic race, had counted on another boost from South Carolina.

"We have worked very hard in this state and I think we have an opportunity to do extremely well here," Gore said during a campaign stop in Columbia, South Carolina.

'Bush would win today'

Vice-President George Bush would beat any Democrat if the presidential election were held today, according to a Newsweek opinion poll issued Saturday.

Bush would defeat Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis 49 per cent to 43 per cent, Jackson 58 to 35 per cent and Gore 55 to 37 per cent, according to the magazine's survey taken on March 10 and 11.

But the number of people who believe the vice-President should disclose more about his role in the Iran-Contra scandal has increased, the Newsweek poll found.

The Newsweek survey said Dole would run just behind Dukakis at 45 to 44 per cent, within the poll's margin of error of plus or minus four points. Dole led Jackson 58 to 35 per cent and Gore 53 to 34 per cent.

British engineer freed from Libyan prison

LONDON (AP) — British engineer James Abra, who was serving a life sentence in a Libyan prison for alleged spying, was released Sunday, the British Foreign Office said.

Abra, 59, was released in the Libyan capital of Tripoli into the custody of the head of the British Interests Section at the Italian embassy, said the spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom.

He said Abra, who was employed by the Plessey Co. Plc., the British electronics giant, was unlikely to leave for Britain Sunday.

Labour Party lawmaker Ron Brown, who has close personal links with Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi and has been instrumental in winning the release of several other Britons imprisoned in Libya, flew to Tripoli Saturday to be on hand for Abra's release.

Abra, the last Briton imprisoned in Libya, was arrested on June 20, 1985 in the departure lounge of Tripoli airport and accused of passing classified information to Plessey and an unnamed foreign government.

He was convicted of spying in April 1986 and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Plessey denied Abra had access to sensitive information. He had worked for Plessey's radar division for 14 years, installing, maintaining and servicing electronic equipment.

His Czech-born wife Radislava, 58, died of a heart attack last July after a fire at their home in Hitchin, 51 kilometres north of London.

According to reports on JANA, Libya's official news agency, the Libyan government declared an amnesty for foreigners of various nationalities held in Libyan prisons.

A dispatch last week quoted a Libyan Foreign Ministry official as saying the prisoner release was an expression of the "freedom and liberty" brought by Libya's 1969 revolution and evidence of its "humanitarian aspect."

The Foreign Office said the Italian embassy, which looks after Britain's interests in Libya, had submitted Abra's name for consideration.

Britain broke diplomatic relations with Libya in April 1984 after a London police officer was fatally shot during a Libyan dissident demonstration. Britain said she was killed by a Libyan shooting from inside the embassy.

Soviet paper questions cost of ending hijack

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet newspaper Sunday asked whether the cost in lives of ending a bizarre hijack bid was too high, and implied some injuries may have been caused by the assault team.

Nine people were killed and 24 injured in Tuesday's attempt by a jazz-band family from Siberia to flee to the West by hijacking a Soviet TU-154 airliner on a flight from Irkutsk to Leningrad.

The attempt by the 11-member Ovechkin family was stopped when the plane landed on a military airfield near Leningrad and an assault team burst into the aircraft with guns blazing. Five Ovechkins, three passengers and a stewardess were killed.

"We have the right to ask the question — Didn't we pay too high a price for the decision to detain the bandits on our territory by any means?" the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda said.

It raised the question of who shot the most seriously-wounded survivor, 26-year-old Igor Moisei, who was hit from behind when he was out of the airplane and standing on the military airfield in apparent safety.

Moisei had led other passengers through an escape hatch, and was on the ground when he was hit by a bullet that entered his body at the waist and exited from his lung, the newspaper said.

"He was one of the first on the ground and it seemed the danger had passed, but at this very moment a shot came. From where? He couldn't understand."

"Of course, the situation was one of extreme darkness, and the

plane was burning," it added.

The Aviation Ministry newspaper said earlier this week that, at one point, soldiers were shooting from the ground through the floor of the plane, apparently blindly. It said one of the hijackers had been killed that way.

Komsomolskaya Pravda said another passenger suffered a blow to the face from an object similar to an automatic rifle butt. The hijackers were carrying sawn-off shotguns.

The newspaper quoted passengers as saying that the sight of soldiers on the military airfield caused the hijackers to panic.

"Look, soldiers. They must remove the soldiers. Get the bomb ready, we'll blow up the plane. Look, one of them (the soldiers) is lying behind the wheel," the witnesses quoted the hijackers as saying, the paper said.

Another Soviet newspaper, Izvestia, suggested earlier this week the rescue operation was bungled, saying the hijackers began shooting when they saw soldiers running towards the plane.

Komsomolskaya Pravda said many passenger injuries were burns and broken bones. There was an explosion in the rear of the plane and it burned to ashes, with many of the 76 passengers escaping by jumping from the wing onto the landing strip.

The paper said that had the plane been flown to London, as the hijackers desired, the British would have had two choices under international civil aviation agreements — to extradite the family or place them on trial for hijacking in Britain.

My Lai massacre 20 years ago shocked a nation

EDITOR'S NOTE: Wednesday, March 16, is the 20th anniversary of the massacre of civilians by U.S. troops at the Vietnamese village of My Lai. The writer covered the Vietnam war as an Associated Press correspondent, returned to Southeast Asia a decade after the war ended and visited My Lai in December 1984.

By George Esper
The Associated Press

BOSTON — At 7:22 on a Saturday morning 20 years ago, Charlie Company lifted off in helicopters with rifles on their arms and revenge in their hearts. The infantrymen were on a mission to My Lai that would become synonymous with shame and cover-up.

Two minutes after they were airborne on that day, March 16, 1968, U.S. artillery guns firing in support from landing zone Up-tight indiscriminately shelled the village. Helicopter gunships raked the landing zone with rockets and machine gun fire.

The thundering artillery, the whistling rockets and the steady clatter of machine guns sent villagers who had been working in the rice paddies diving for cover along the dikes and in the buffalo pits in the fields. Others, like Pham Thi Trinh, then a 10-year-old schoolgirl, and her family, took refuge in homemade shelters in front of their huts.

As the troop-carrying helicopters from Task Force Barker made their final approach, smoke from fires touched off by the artillery poured into the skies. At 7:30, the first troops landed, aroused about a grudge operation aimed at evening the score for the American casualties suffered from mines, booby traps and snipers.

The attitude of all the men, the majority, I would say, was a vengeful attitude," said Gregory Olson in testimony at a military inquiry into the My Lai assault. "They all felt a little bad

because (we) lost a number of buddies to My Lai."

"People were talking about killing everything that moved," recalled another participant, Robert Pendleton. "Everyone knew what we were going to do."

The target was the 48th Viet Cong Local Force Battalion, perhaps as many as 250 troops that intelligence said posed a threat to the provincial capital of Quang Ngai City six miles (10 kilometres) away.

Captain Ernest L. Medina, the commander of Charlie Company, told his troops the civilians would be on their way to the local marketplaces in Quang Ngai City by 7 a.m. but that was not the case.

Charlie Company's 1st platoon, led by Lieutenant William L. Calley, Jr., moved into My Lai firing at fleeing Vietnamese, throwing grenades into houses and bunkers, and slaughtering animals.

"We heard the sound of American soldiers," Pham Thi Trinh told a reporter years later. "People hiding in the shelter got out as they usually did when Americans entered the village." The U.S. troops ordered her family and four neighbours to the front of the house, she said. She hid in a bedroom.

"They shot to death three cows first," she said. "Then they knelt and shot my family. People tried to run away. My parents, six brothers and sisters, grandmother and aunt and uncle were killed."

Vo Thi Lien, then 11, was in a shelter with her grandparents. "I saw three American soldiers point guns and shoot into the

shelter and then throw grenades into it and hit my grandmother," she said. Unable to find a way out of the collapsing shelter, she and her grandfather finally were rescued by some villagers.

By the time Charlie Company left My Lai in the early afternoon, its troops had killed at least 175-200 Vietnamese men, women and children, according to the 1970 report of the army inquiry headed by the late Lieutenant-General William R. Peers.

"The evidence indicates that only three or four were confirmed as Viet Cong, although there were undoubtedly several unarmored Viet Cong men, women and children among them and many more active supporters and sympathizers," the Peers report said.

Separate estimates by the criminal investigation division of the army together with other evidence indicated more than 400 civilians were killed.

A plaque in My Lai is inscribed with the names of 504 men, women and children Vietnamese officials said died in the massacre.

The only American casualty reported in Charlie Company was a soldier who was wounded by the discharge of his rifle.

Of Calley, the central figure of My Lai, the Peers report said: "He directed and supervised the men of his platoon in the systematic killing of many non-combatants in and around My Lai. He personally participated in the killing of some non-combatants."

Of the leader of the 2nd Platoon, Lieutenant Steven K. Brooks, one of four officers involved in My Lai who were killed in action in the following months, the report said: "He directed and supervised the men of his platoon in the systematic killing of at least 60 to 70 non-combatants... he

observed, did not prevent, and failed to report several rapes by members of his platoon."

Some Vietnamese were spared

by the courage of Warrant Officer Hugh Thompson, an American helicopter pilot, who threatened to fire on his fellow soldiers if they harmed a group of 12 to 16 Vietnamese women, children and old men cowering in a bunker.

Thompson landed his helicopter near the bunker and ordered his crew to fire on the American infantrymen if they fired on the Vietnamese while he was trying to get them evacuated.

The outside world knew nothing of My Lai for more than a year. The Peers inquiry cited 28 officers ranging from generals to enlisted men for covering up the massacre.

On March 29, 1969, Ron Ridenhour, a Vietnam veteran, sent letters to 30 military and congressional leaders saying he had heard many reports from soldiers who had served in Charlie Company that something "very black" had happened in My Lai and a public investigation should be made.

Eight months later, on Nov. 24, 1969, Calley was ordered court-martialed on charges of premeditated murder of 109 Vietnamese.

"If I have committed a crime," Calley said in his defence, "the only crime that I have committed is in judgment of my values. Apparently I have valued my troops' lives more than I did that of the enemy. When my troops were getting massacred and mangled by an enemy I couldn't see, I couldn't feel and I couldn't touch — that nobody in the military ever described as anything other than Communism."

In March 1971, a jury of six senior officers convicted Calley of first-degree murder of at least 22 villagers, including a boy fleeing in terror whom Calley tossed into a ditch and shot.

The only soldier convicted in the massacre, Calley was ordered to spend life in prison.

His conviction and sentence touched off a public outcry in his support including national petition campaigns, angry speeches in Congress and appeals to President Richard Nixon to pardon him. Five months later, Nixon reduced his sentence to 20 years.

Calley actually served three years under house arrest at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was released when his conviction was overturned by a federal district judge, and he was not returned to house arrest when the 5th U.S. Court of Appeals reinstated the conviction.

Initially, 25 officers and enlisted men were charged, 13 of them accused of direct involvement in the killing. But only six were actually tried, including Medina, the company commander.

Although atrocities were committed by both sides in the Vietnam war, My Lai shocked the United States, a nation that took pride in fighting by the rules of war.

Today, My Lai is a memorial to its victims. The bodies of the men, women and children rest in the cemeteries and surrounding fields.

In the centre of the village is a large statue of a woman holding a child in her left arm. At her feet are victims of the massacre. My Lai was reborn when the war ended in 1975. Twenty years after the attack, it is alive again with the scent of flowers in bloom and the laughter of a new generation of children.

COLUMN

New way to fix broken bones

THE HAGUE (R) — Two Dutch researchers say they have developed an easier way to heal broken bones. The researchers from Groningen University Hospital say they have made surgical plates and screws from dissolving polylactic acid instead of traditional metal, doing away with the need for follow-up surgery. The acid parts dissolve in the body in about two years, unlike metal plates and screws which must be surgically removed after the break has healed, according to plastic surgeon Rudolf Bos and chemist Albert Jan Pennings. Bos told Reuters that researchers had been trying to produce dissolving plates and screws for years but had been unable to produce a material strong enough. The new material had been used for facial surgery on 15 patients since 1985, he said.

Prince Edward 'plans to marry'

LONDON (AP) — Prince Edward, the youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II, plans to marry the 22-year-old daughter of a Belgian baroness, a newspaper reported Sunday. The People, a weekly London tabloid, said the 24-year-old prince has proposed to Georgia May, whose mother, Catherine, was born a baroness in the Belgian family Van Den Branden de Reeth. Edward would have to give up his rights as fifth in line to the British throne if he married May, a Roman Catholic, the newspaper said. Britain's 1701 Act of Settlement laid down that only Protestants could be British monarchs. The newspaper said the couple are awaiting the Queen's permission to be formally engaged. The newspaper quoted May's jilted boyfriend, New Zealand yachtsman Ed Dwyer, as saying she told him of the engagement plan in a telephone call last week.

Malle film sweeps awards

PARIS (R) — Film director Louis Malle's cinematic reminiscences of his childhood Jewish friends during the Nazi occupation of France, Saturday won seven Oscars, the French equivalent of Hollywood's Academy Awards. Malle's "Au Revoir les Enfants" won awards for Best Film, Best Director, and Best Original Screenplay, as well as winning top honours in Decoration, Editing, Photography and Sound. The film, which is a success in the United States and has been nominated for an American "Oscar" as Best Foreign Film, marked a homecoming for the French director whose movies about the United States, such as "Atlantic City," have been box office hits and widely praised by critics. Bernardo Bertolucci's "The Last Emperor" won the Cesar for Best Foreign Film.

No ban on Bible

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish Censorship Board has decided not to ban the Bible. It rejected a complaint by a Dublin housewife who said it glorified violence. The board, which has banned Hindu erotic art books and the internationally available sex manual "The Joy of Sex," said it had considered Anne Spicer's complaint against the Bible with great care but decided to take no action. She reacted angrily to the decision, telling the Irish press: "How do the censors explain their banning of a Hindu book of erotic art? Hinduism has at least as valid a claim to historical importance as Judaeo-Christian writing. The Hindu book celebrated lust and sexuality and was banned. The Bible glorifies death and destruction and is not banned."

Pollution causing whelk sex change

LONDON (AP) — Scientists have determined that pollution along Britain's coastline is causing female whelks to acquire male characteristics, making it impossible for them to reproduce, a newspaper reported Sunday. The weekly Observer said dog whelks, a variety of the large marine snails, have disappeared entirely from some sections of the coast. It said the Cumbrian Sea Fisheries Committee, a marine biologists' group in Northwest England, suspects that an anti-fouling paint used on the hulls of boats is causing the sex-change phenomenon. Just one part per million of the chemical tributyltin (TBT) in sea water causes the female whelks to develop male organs and "we are 100 per cent certain that this problem is caused by TBT," marine biologist Peter Gibbs was quoted as saying.